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Inter-Arab Affairs

Morocco Seeks Expanded Arab Followup Committee

LD0802165290 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] His Majesty Moroccan King Hassan II sent a message to his brothers, their majesties and excellencies kings and presidents of the Arab countries. Here is the text of the royal message:

God be praised, and God's prayers be upon our master Muhammad and his family and followers.

From Hassan II, King of Morocco

Dear brother, peace and God's mercy be on you.

You know that the extraordinary Arab summit, which was held in Casablanca between 17 and 20 Shawwal 1409 AH equivalent to 23-26 May 1989, decided to form a supreme committee whose chairmanship was delegated to us. The summit delegated the committee to follow up on the Palestinian issue and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The committee's duty is to follow up movements in the international arena and hold necessary contacts, in the name of the Arab League, with the permanent members of the UN Security Council and the UN secretary general to activate the peace process and participate in preparations for holding the international peace conference on the Middle East.

On the other hand, the extraordinary Arab summit decided that the formation of the supreme committee should be completed through consultations between us and president Yasir 'Arafat. During the recent meeting between us and the Palestinian president, we decided together that the seven-man Arab committee, which was formed at Fes, because of its previous work might be the best one to shoulder the duties delegated to the supreme committee. Also, because of the changes which occurred since the holding of the Fes summit in both the Arab and international arenas, we considered it best that Iraq and Egypt join the seven-man Arab committee because this would only benefit the performance of the duties and give the committee complete effectiveness in performing them in the best possible way.

We are happy to present this proposal to you so that you may give your opinion and answer as soon as possible.

Dear brother please accept our high appreciation and friendship.

Written at the Royal Palace in Marrakech on Saturday 6 Rajab 1410 AH, equivalent to 3 February 1990 A.D.

Jordanian King Visits ACC Headquarters

JN0602212690 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Amman, 6 Feb (PETRA)—His Majesty Jordanian King Husayn has affirmed that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] member states will continue to follow the policy which governed their course last year.

He added that the forthcoming summit of the ACC Higher Council will afford us the opportunity to take more steps towards the ACC's goals, especially as we have based our work on solid ground and succeeded in achieving several goals and reaching a great number of agreements, which will lead to real gains for our four peoples and our Arab nation.

His majesty also said that the forthcoming summit will witness a new approach in our joint action, stressing that the summit will allow us to comprehend the recent developments in both the Arab and international arenas, and to achieve a unified position to the benefit of our countries, our great homeland, and our Arab nation.

These remarks emerged today during His Majesty King Husayn's visit to the ACC General Secretariat Headquarters, since Jordan is the host country. His majesty was briefed on the readiness of the employees to carry out their duties. He also heard a briefing by ACC Secretary General Dr Hilmi Nammar on the headquarters and the progress of work on it.

The meeting was attended by the crown prince, the Royal Hashemite Court chief, his majesty's political adviser, and the ACC assistant secretary general.

League's Klibi Receives Czechoslovak Delegation

LD0102153290 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1150 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Tunis 1 Feb (TAP)—Mr Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, received yesterday evening a Czechoslovak delegation headed by Mrs Vera Bartoskova, deputy foreign minister.

At the meeting, they discussed the recent changes in Czechoslovakia, Arab relations with Prague and the importance of consolidating them, and current Arab issues, especially the latest developments of the Palestinian issue and the collective immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine.

The Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister addressed an official invitation from the Prague government to the Arab League secretary general to visit Czechoslovakia. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Further Commentary on Israeli Bus Incident

Khalaf Threatens More Acts

JN0802174690 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1708 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Fatah Central Committee Member Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] has warned that operations similiar to the

Israeli tourist bus operation in Ismailia might be carried out against Israel if its leaders continued their intransigence and obstinacy.

In an interview with the Algerian newspaper AL-SHA'B, Abu-Iyad said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir bears responsibility for this attack because he continues to adopt an intransigent policy.

It will be recalled that the PLO had earlier condemned the bus attack in which nine Israeli tourists and two Egyptian citizens were killed.

Islamic Jihad Al-Tamimi on Attack

JN0902104090 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 1

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Excerpt] Amman—The Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis [Jerusalem] has claimed responsibility for the attack on the Israeli tourist bus in Egypt that resulted in the death of nine Israelis and the wounding of 17 others. In a statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, Shaykh As'ad Bayud al-Tamimi, political and religious controller of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, said: "The Misbah al-Sayuri group carried out the operation successfully. A Peugeot car belonging to the mujahidin attacked the bus with machineguns and hand grenades; the mujahidin then withdrew, leaving the car behind them."

In the first threat to the Soviets on the Soviet Jews' immigration to Palestine, Shaykh al-Tamimi said: "The Soviets, like the Americans, are plotters; the Soviets are more dangerous because they want to strike at the Palestine question with men, a sharper weapon than equipment." Shaykh al-Tamimi threatened the Soviet immigrants and warned them against staying in Palestine.

Shaykh al-Tamimi addressed a message to Egypt saying: "This operation is a message to Egypt, the hope of Muslims throughout history, to enter the battle again on our side."

Shaykh al-Tamimi said that Misbah al-Sayuri was one of six Palestinians who escaped from Ansar-3 prison two years ago, took part in a fedayeen operation in Gaza, and was martyred with two others. [passage omitted]

More From Al-Tamimi

JN0902201090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1803 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Brothers, Shaykh As'ad al-Tamimi, general controller of the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis [Jerusalem] has addressed a speech to the masses of our Palestinian people. Following is the text of the address:

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. And slay them wherever you catch them, and turn them out from where they have turned you out. [Koranic verse]

O masses of our Muslim Palestinian people; O people of the blessed intifadah; O kinfolk throughout the beloved homeland; O holders of the blessed stones of the homeland; O adherents of pride and loftiness amid the crowds of those timidly approaching the tables of global arrogance; O mothers and sons; O boys and girls; O true men throughout the land struggle: Since the beginning of this century, the Zionist movement—the vanguard force of Western design—has been struggling to entrench its feet throughout the beloved homeland until it managed to establish the alleged State of Israel, which then moved towards the rest of the homeland until it usurped all of Palestine, along with parts of the beloved Golan Heights. In the late seventies and thanks to the Camp David hero, the Zionist movement managed to enter Cairo accompanied by the henchmen of its intelligence services and began to sow corruption in Egypt, until this country became a base for peddling all Zionist and Western plots into our Arab and Islamic world. On Sunday evening, everyone was taken by surprise. Everyone was expecting to watch the daily Zionist bloody episode in Palestine. However, the show was suddenly halted when an elite group of men who have made Jerusalem their target and swore to honor the pledge made their infiltration. Then, the wheel of history was rendered motionless. The wheel of time was reversed, and the nation began to restore its memory when it was awakened to the cries of "God is Great!" reverberating in Al-Mu'izz [Muslim caliph] Cairo, and the bullets declared that blood demands blood and that Khaybar [Jewish stronghold in early Islamic periods; reference here is to Israeli tourists' bus] has been hit. The echo is still being heard in Cairo, recalling thousands of strugglers throughout Egypt. [passage omitted]

Why is the world today lamenting a Zionist clique that has fallen while attempting to sow vice and corruption among our people and nation in the Nile valley? Are these not the same people who are killing our children and young and old people day and night? Are they not the heroes of Dayr Yasin and the Sabra and Shatila massacres? Are they not the ones coming from the remotest corners of the globe to usurp what is left of our land and homes? My sons in Palestine, more jihad and more jihad. You have an appointment with victory. Pay no attention to the advocates of defeatism and capitulation. They are a minor, misled clique that has not understood that the removal of Israel is a Koranic inevitability. [passage omitted]

O my sons in Jerusalem, Nabulus, Janin, al-Karmil, the Triangle, and Galilee: Here are the Jews, coming from everywhere to the grand grave—to Palestine. My beloved ones in Gaza, Hebron, Yafo, Bethlehem, Haifa, and Bayt Sahur: Our date with the children of Israel is imminent. [passage omitted]

Concluding his address, Shaykh As'ad al-Tamimi said: I address my salutations to every leader and official who hailed the martyr Misbah al-Suri operation in Ismailia and to every magazine, paper, or radio station, particularly the al-Quds radio staff and those in charge of it and whoever allowed the broadcasting of the details of the heroic operation to the masses of our Palestinian people and Arab and Islamic nation. [passage omitted]

'Immeasurable' Impact of Attack

JN0802195690 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Political commentary: "A Reply—What a Reply!"]

[Excerpts] Now that the Ismailia operation has been carried out, now that the Arab revolutionaries have managed to penetrate the international, Arab, and Palestinian atmosphere and to channel it into the real circle or the real balance, now that all this has happened, how can we view this operation in terms of its timing, aims, results, and reactions, which might impress the forthcoming stage for several years to come by its special, distinctive, and effective stamp?

On the international level, the operation came at a time of American belligerence. This belligerence is not confined to one place or spot; it is everywhere in Latin America, Asia, Africa, Europe, and warm and cold islands, oceans, and waters. This U.S. policy of continued belligerence is spreading in almost the same degree through the Middle East region, especially the Arab arena, where there is a conflict with the Zionist enemy. Washington was determined to find a formula to guarantee the success of Baker's plan, first by holding a tripartite meeting on Sunday and Monday, and second by securing the back routes for holding the Zionist-Palestinian dialogue, which will be the starting point for the implementation of a plan that guarantees the success of the Zionist scheme in Palestine at the expense of the Arab nation's interests. [passage omitted]

These are some of the circumstances under which the Ismailia operation was carried out. This operation resulted in the following:

1. The postponement of the Likud Central Committee meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, 7 February 1990, to vote for confidence in Shamir and his policy on the domestic and international level, particularly in the light of Baker's plan and the proposed tripartite meeting.
2. The delaying of the tripartite Geneva meeting between the foreign ministers of the Zionist entity, the United States, and Egypt on approving plans for the next stage which is one of Zionist-Palestinian dialogue.
3. The operation dealt a heavy blow to the policy of coexistence with the Zionists and the policy of normalization between Egypt and the Zionist entity, or between the Zionists and any other Arab society.
4. The operation is a living synonym of the great intifadah in Palestine. It has relieved this intifadah of some of its burdens. It perplexed the military and security structure of the Zionist institution in the same manner as it perplexed the political structure and the diplomatic activity.
5. The Ismailia operation was not an independent or isolated incident. Consequently, it was the outcome of the resisting popular Arab spirit which rejects normalization, bargaining, and negotiation and which consecrates fighting and armed struggle as the only main road to freedom and victory. By all pan-Arab and militant criteria, the arms of the heroes of the operation complement the arms of the intifadah and all martyrdom operations against the Zionist enemy.
6. The operation restored life and vigor to the Palestinian and Arab fighting program and dealt a blow to the concessionist schemes of the negligent, the onlookers, and the plotters.
7. We must also say that the Ismailia operation is the right, practical reply to the international plot to mass Soviet and other Jews in Palestine. This response was decisive, and we believe it was the sound reply. We also believe that it will not be the only reply. There are other replies and there are other languages. There are real speakers in the name of Palestine. Their words are blood, their breath is blood, their veins and rifles are blood—blood which will really be the terror that will make the incoming barbarians tremble, even at the mere thought of coming to our homeland, Palestine

The results of the Ismailia operation are immeasurable. They will continue to be felt for years to come. Because this is so, it is only natural for them to be opposed primarily by the Zionist enemy, secondly by the United States, thirdly by the Camp David regimes, fourthly by the leadership of Mr. 'Arafat, fifthly by some elements in Palestine, and sixthly by some or several Arabs who consider such operations as a danger threatening them and their interests, exactly as they see the gigantic intifadah. The Ismailia operation is really the speech of Palestine; it is really the poem of revolutionaries in Palestine; and it is really the book of the Arab revolutionaries in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the revolutionaries in Lebanon and in its south, the revolutionaries in Port Said and Aswan, the revolutionaries in the universities and schools, and the revolutionaries in the Golan Heights. It is the answer of armed struggle to apostasy, normalization, and consecration of defeat. Any ink that does not say this must have its inkpot on Shamir's table or Sharon's cleaver.

Victory is approaching on the wings of the eagles, God willing. God is with us and victory is imminent. We are together along the path of liberating land and man.

Al-Surani Blames Attack on Israel

PM0902095290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Feb 90 p 3

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani by Zaki Shihab; date, place not given]

[Text] [Shihab] What effect will the Israeli tourist bus incident have on the peace efforts in the region?

[Al-Surani] Responsibility for the incident falls on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his government, who are not responding to the PLO peace initiative, which became an Arab initiative at the Casablanca summit conference and which has gained international support.

Shamir's government is at present obstructing every possible step towards peace. When I say "peace" I mean Palestinian peace, which guarantees the Palestinian people's inalienable rights to self-determination and to their own independent state. Israel has tried to establish peace with Egypt but that has been no more than a cease-fire. The desired peace is peace for all—not peace for the murderers and the settlers.

Anyone planning to bring in hundreds of thousands of new settlers cannot be contemplating a peace that could possibly embrace Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt, and all the Arab territories.

I hold the United States responsible for the occurrence of such operations because of its unlimited support for Israel and because of its pressure on the Soviet Union in favor of the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel to replace people made to leave their homeland by force. The United States should rectify that by reassessing its past position.

Egypt signed the Camp David Accord but there have been numerous incidents similar to the latest one. I believe that, because of Shamir's continued rejection [of peace] and continued threats to expand the settlement [of Jews in the occupied territory], this latest incident will not be the last.

[Shihab] Have there been any contacts between Egypt and the PLO regarding that incident?

[Al-Surani] None at all. There have been no contacts, but we are definitely upset because we want security for Egypt, and we want real security; but with its own extremism, Israel has planted extremism in the Arab land.

[Shihab] What is the PLO's connection to the incident?

[Al-Surani] It has no connection with the operation, and it does not accept that kind of action. When the PLO submitted its peace initiative it submitted a strategic initiative to which it adheres and on which it insists. Israel was built on a Torah Talmud racist foundation. That is why the fundamentalist movements have emerged. So long as that is the situation, it will be a tooth for a tooth and an eye for an eye, and the initiator is the more to blame.

[Shihab] The question of the emigration of Soviet Jews was discussed by the PLO leadership and Soviet envoy Gennadiy Tarasov who visited Tunis recently. What has been achieved in this regard?

[Al-Surani] The Soviet Union well understands the Palestinian view. We are all for human rights wherever these human beings may be, and we are also for the right of return. That is why, in fact, we are against the shipment of emigrants without their being given a chance to go to other countries. We explained to the Soviet delegation the PLO's viewpoint and the threat that this matter poses to the [settlement of the] Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole.

[Shihab] What was the Soviet delegation's reply?

[Al-Surani] It understood our position and said that it would submit a report to officials there and acquaint them with the fears about which it had heard. It reaffirmed its interest in continued cooperation and friendship between the Soviet Union and the PLO in in particular, and between the Soviet people and the Arab people in general. It said that its government does not at all encourage aggression against the Arabs.

[Shihab] Will the Soviet Union announce anything in this connection?

[Al-Surani] I hope so.

[Shihab] Will the Ismailia incident delay the meeting of the U.S., Egyptian, and Israeli foreign ministers expected to take place soon?

[Al-Surani] I believe this is an opportunity for the United States, Europe, the Soviet Union, and all other powers in the world to learn something from the regrettable incident.

Nobody should believe that we can prevent this—not unless there is a decision leading to a just peace. If this kind of operation is not carried out in Egypt, perhaps it will be carried out in other states.

Rafah 'Crime' 'More Horrible' Than Bus Incident

LD0802183690 Rabat MAP in English 1240 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, Feb 8 (MAP)—Adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, Bassam Abu-Sharif urged peace loving forces which struggle against racism, colonialism and terrorism, to act with the Palestinian people and the Israeli forces in favour of peace to put an end to the slaughter perpetrated by Israel against the Palestinian people and for the ending of occupation and terrorism in the region.

In a communique circulated Wednesday in Tunis, Bassam Abu-Sharif thinks that the collective crime committed on the day before in Rafah against Palestinian pupils is far more horrible than that perpetrated against Israel tourists in Ismailiya in Egypt.

"The policy of madness led by Yitzhaq Shamir and his government which is based on hegemonist dreams and on the achievement of the great Israel, is a disaster and a calamity for all the region including Israel", the Palestinian

official stressed, adding that "such a policy and the permanent rejection of the efforts exerted to establish a global peace in the region and the carrying on of the terrorism practice organized against the Palestinian people can only lead to more disasters to the detriment of the Israel and Palestinian peoples and the whole region".

"The Israeli occupation army, the communique said opened fire with automatic arms, blindly, on students of the schools of Rafah, injuring 40 students".

"We invite the American administration to take 'concrete' measures against Israeli terrorism to give evidence of its sincerity in matters of human rights" the Palestinian official concluded.

Abu-Sharif Condemns Israel

NC0802160290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, 8 Feb (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, special adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has accused Israel of committing a premeditated crime against the Palestinians in the town of Rafah in the occupied Gaza Strip. He said that the occupation forces opened fire on hundreds of students who were demonstrating peacefully to demand that their schools, recently closed by the Israeli Government, be reopened.

Abu-Sharif added that 75 students were injured and two, Ayman Zaqqut and Salman al-Madani, were martyred. He described the action as an attempt to abort the efforts to start the peace process in the Middle East.

In a statement to MENA, Abu-Sharif called for continuing the efforts to start the peace process, noting that Israel wants to annex the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip through these actions. He added that the Security Council and its five permanent members have to act immediately to stop the Israeli repressive practices against the Palestinian people.

U.S. Envoy Meets Klibi, PLO Envoy in Tunis

LD0802183290 Kuwait KUNA in English 1735 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, Feb. 8 (KUNA)—Palestine's ambassador to Tunisia Hakam Bal'awi and the Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi Thursday conferred with the United States Ambassador Robert Pelletreau on Mideast situation.

Palestinian sources here said Bal'awi discussed with the U.S. diplomat latest developments of Mideast peace efforts and mounting Israeli brutalities against the Palestinian people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Talks also covered the present wave of Soviet Jews emigration to occupied Arab areas and its repercussion on the peace process.

Bal'awi briefed the American ambassador on Israeli massacres in the town of Rafah, Gaza Strip, over the past couple days which left three martyrs and more than 120 people wounded, mostly schoolboys, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the Arab League sources said Klibi also raised the issue of growing suppressive Israeli practices against the Palestinians with Pelletreau.

The Arab League chief met here last week with the U.S. diplomat and discussed fears of the Arab countries towards the Soviet Jews influx to Israel and the Zionist authorities' plans to settle them in the occupied Arab areas.

PLO Warns Against Israel's Dialogue 'Propaganda'

LD0902083290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The PLO has warned that the campaign of deception initiated by Zionist propaganda is aimed at creating confusion within the ranks of the Palestinian groups by publicizing names which have allegedly been chosen for what Israeli Ma'ariv describe as talks which will take place in Cairo with Israel.

The PLO said that it will appoint delegates, and will inform the organization about all the details in a way which ensures representation by choice and by decision. It pointed out that it is not yet time to appoint the members of the PLO delegation.

Further Comment on Soviet Jewish Emigration

Al-Husayni: Not to 'Occupied' Lands

LD0802151990 Kuwait KUNA in English 1137 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Paris, Feb 8 (KUNA)—Palestinian Nationalist Leader, Faysal al-Husayni was quoted here Thursday as saying he is not against the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union as long as their final destination is not the occupied Arab lands.

"They can be installed in Israel or anywhere else but not in the West Bank, Gaza or East Jerusalem," said al-Husayni in an interview with "L'EVENEMENT DU JEUDI" weekly magazine.

"I do not want the Israeli authorities, for example, to use my water, the water of the Palestinian people, which is (?becoming) a very scarce object in this region, to facilitate the integration of Soviet Jews," he said.

He added that if Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir uses force to install the Soviet Jews in the occupied territories, the demographic balance will tilt and the peace process in the Middle East sustain negative consequences.

Al-Husayni said that Shamir is implanting Soviet Jews in the occupied territories while preventing the Palestinian people their right for family reunion.

The Palestinian nationalist leader said he supports the rights of the Soviet Jews or any individual for free movement, but he recalled that doors are closed in their face by the U.S. and Europe.

He added that whenever he meets Soviet officials in Israel he points out the dangerous consequences of the nationalist movements in the Soviet Union on the emigration of Jews into Israel.

Jurists Organization on Influx

JN0602152490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Feb 90 p 18

[Text] Amman, AL-DUSTUR—The General Secretariat of the Palestinian Association of Jurists [PAJ] has issued a statement on the Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine and the dangers inherent therein, including feeding Israeli extremism, the rejection of proposed peace initiatives, and the settlement of immigrants in the occupied territories at the expense of their rightful owners.

The statement reads: Our association warns of the dangers posed by this increasing emigration, particularly considering that the United States has succumbed to pressures in this regard form the Zionist lobby in the U.S. Congress, and thus closed the doors to Soviet Jews by fixing a ceiling on the number of Soviet Jews allowed to enter U.S. territory so that they will be forced to head to Tel Aviv.

The statement adds: Man's freedom can never be an absolute one. This freedom is linked, according to all universal charters, to ensuring due respect for the rights of others. The influx of Soviet Jews in the implementation of human rights and in the realization of their right to depart from their homeland and make a new home, as Moscow says, should not be granted at the expense of the right of the Palestinian Arabs to lead a free and decent life on their national soil.

In its statement, the PAJ General Secretariat urged the friendly USSR, which has for decades supported Arab causes, foremost of which is the Palestine question, to use its influential role with the United States, Canada, and the European states to make them open the doors of their capitals to the Soviet Jewish emigrants just as they did in the past.

The statement also asked the USSR to consider the serious dangers inherent in this new situation, in which tens of thousands of Jews are expected to arrive in the Zionist entity.

The statement also asked the Arab Lawyers Union to take swift action in this regard within the context of a scientific and objective plan, and to address the world, led by the Soviet friends, on the dangers posed by the increase in Soviet Jewish emigrants and their influx to Palestine.

Gorbachev Blamed For 'New Crime'

JN0302212490 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Political commentary]

[Excerpts] Just as we have predicted, the Soviet Jews are still streaming in, while their excellencies at the PLO look on. By way of clearing themselves of blame, the PLO convened in Tunis and met with Soviet envoy Tarasov. The results, as we all know, have been fresh concessions.

Just three days ago, we said that the PLO and other Arab leaders will say that as long as immigrants do not find their way to the West Bank and Gaza Strip they have no quarrel with immigration to Palestine. Mr. Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member, was dexterous in the sorting-out process: He said that settling the would-be immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip constitutes a human rights violation and wrecks the peace process and efforts to find a peaceful settlement. Doesn't he think that the hundreds of thousands of immigrants meant to settle in Jerusalem, Akko, Yafo, Hafia, and other Palestinian cities do not wreck peace chances, or set back the peace settlement, or violate human rights? It is the end of the world if he and his PLO Executive Committee draw a line between immigration to Palestine and immigration to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

The incumbent administration in the Soviet Union must take the blame for the new crime. It is the Gorbachev-led government that is trampling underfoot the human rights it claims to champion. While the incumbent Soviet regime shows concern for the rights of Jews in the USSR, it does not show the same concern for Arab rights to their homeland, cities, and villages. The logic of political and propaganda sorcery must fail and be exposed. This will be possible only if Palestinians and Arabs take a stand that ceases to gamble on the wrong party. They should take a stand built on a decision made by the strong rather than defeatists who are trying to capitalize on this crime to attain a settlement that at best will amount to nothing more than autonomy or self-rule. Let all the Palestinians and Arabs know that Soviet Jewish emigration is not a passing phenomenon, but a continuing state. Let us all know that the emigration process was drawn up according to a program masterminded by Eduard Shevardnadze and James Baker and endorsed by Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush. [passage omitted]

Palestinians on Jewish Emigration

JN0802184690 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 4 Feb 90 p 20

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, AL-WATAN—The issue of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and their influx to occupied Palestine has begun to generate reactions, particularly in the wake of the U.S.

decision not to receive immigrants in order to force them to head for Israel. The issue has become the focus of a heated debate following the statements made by enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the effect that "we need greater Israel to accommodate increased Jewish emigration." These statements elicited Arab and world reactions, especially considering that King Husayn expressed concern that the implementation of the "alternative homeland" scheme advocated by Sharon, Shamir, and Likud leaders might be under way. This happens at a time when numerous statistics spoke of the departure of tens of thousands of Palestinians from the occupied territories and of the fact that some of them are staying in Jordan.

AL-WATAN, which opened the file on mass Jewish emigration, posed three questions to a number of Palestinian figures from the occupied territories to learn their views on this serious matter and to get acquainted with the thorny topics created by this issue. The following are the questions that we addressed to them, as well as the answers given by these individuals:

First question: How do you view Shamir's statements on the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza to absorb more Jewish immigrants? Are the Israelis really working to maintain control over the West Bank and Gaza? Or are these Likud statements aimed at extracting further concessions designed to evade negotiations with the PLO and consequently make self-rule the ceiling of any settlement?

Second question: Against the backdrop of Shamir's statements, King Husayn announced that the implementation of the alternative homeland scheme is under way. What do you think of the statement made by King Husayn in this regard? And are the Israeli convictions just ways of implementing this scheme?

Third question: It has been recently announced that tens of thousands of Palestinians left the West Bank and Gaza during the past few years. Some 46,000 Palestinians left these territories, half of them during the intifadah. What are the reasons for this departure? Why this large-scale migration? Is it a serious indicator?

Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, chairman of the Association of [West Bank] Journalists, responded by saying: Shamir's statements provide nothing new. It goes without saying that these statements reflect his true ideological orientations. His statements are a reflection of the Likud strategy. And this strategy is well known to those far and near. His efforts to accommodate Soviet Jewish emigrants did not start this year. No, he has been preoccupied with this issue since he began working in the Israeli political arena. These efforts of his fall in line with his ideology, which is based on expansion and the actual annexation of the Palestinian territories through building more settlements and enlisting world support for the building of these settlements. These statements are not aimed at extracting further concessions. No, these statements are a real expression of the Likud's well-known positions. Had these statements been linked to a desire to obtain further concessions, the Likud would have pursued a genuine approach toward peace. The issue concerns the advocacy of hardline principles supported and implemented by Likud under the very nose of the international community.

The alternative homeland plan is a scheme entertained not only by Shamir. No, Sharon, Levi, Moda'i, and other extremist Likud ministers are also contemplating this plan. They might begin to implement this plan when the political circumstances become propitious. Hence, finding a solution to the Palestinian question on the basis of meeting the just Palestinian demands will kill the delusions harbored by the Israeli rulers who publicly advocate an expansionist policy and say that the implementation of the alternative homeland scheme would be possible if the current Arab paralysis remains unhealed.

I do not believe that the figure concerning the number of departing Palestinians is accurate. If this is the case, the reason would be the continued closure of universities and institutes, as well as the political circumstances which the country is experiencing. I think that this is a cause of grave concern to us. We have to tackle this issue immediately in a bid to find a solution to it. This is one of the challenges facing the Palestinian people. The problem needs speedy consideration and immediate solutions. What is actually happening is that the Palestinian migrants leave the territories for a short period of time and come back after they complete their studies or prosper economically. Nevertheless, the issue requires further consideration and urgent solutions.

Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, chairman of the Red Crescent Society in Gaza, said: Shamir's latest statements fall in line with the crux of his declared policy, which rejects the Palestinian right to self-determination and repatriation and to establish an independent state. According to this policy, all the Palestinian lands belong to Israel, and the latter has an absolute right to establish settlements throughout Palestine. Shamir's policy stipulates that these settlements must be maintained within the context of any solution that might be reached. In my opinion, this position is not aimed at putting pressure on the Palestinians with a view to extracting further concessions. No, this stand is tantamount to a warning addressed to the Palestinians telling them that they either have to vacate their homeland willingly, or they will be forcibly ousted. Shamir's statements are unequivocally clear and must be taken into account.

The statements on "the alternative homeland," the Israeli leaders' claims that Jordan is the Palestinian state, and Shamir's statements on Israel's need for the West Bank and Gaza and for other areas to accommodate newcomers during the next few years are aimed at thwarting the peace process by creating physical realities on the ground, in the form of settlers and immigrants who would enjoy the protection of the Israeli military force. Shamir does not heed the fact that such a thing would contravene UN resolutions and enrage the world

public. As long as Western democracies fail to take practical measures against this hostile approach, and as long as the U.S. Government continues to provide Israel with comprehensive material and military support, the latter will continue to build settlements that would consolidate instability and prevent the attainment of peace. Moreover, Israel might even expel the Palestinians and deport them through the use of force.

To the best of my knowledge, I can safely say that the Palestinians are determined to hold out on their lands under the most difficult circumstances. I am certain that the intifadah has conveyed its message to all parts of the world. This message has shown the world that the Palestinians are strongly attached to their homeland, and that they adhere to their natural rights. As for the figures mentioned, I believe that these figures mostly concern the Palestinians who left the country looking for work in the Arab states. They have not left with the aim of vacating their lands once and for all. The remaining Palestinians included in these figures concern those expelled by the use of Israeli force, pressure, or coercion. Needless to say, any unforced migration under the current circumstances would be tantamount to high treason. I do not think that the Palestinian masses would ever entertain the possibility of commiting such treason. [passage omitted]

West Accused of Luring Palestinians to U.S.

JN0602055990 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1945 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Political Commentary]

[Excerpts] Palestinian brothers; our great Arab nation: The crime of moving Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine seems to have more than one dimension and sphere. The crime of the age is directed not only against our Palestinian people but also against our Arab nation.

After the Untied States put its full weight behind the emigration of Soviet Jews, and pushed through legislation to bar the entry of Soviet Jews into the United States—leaving them with the only option of heading to our country—some official American institutions and European agencies are now busy implementing the rest of the crime of the age, namely, moving Palestinians from their homeland and from Lebanon to the United States. The conspiracy is being carried out by some American institutions who are handing out fliers in Jerusalem promoting emigration to the United States and promising facilities to help. The same tactic is being used by certain European institutions in Lebanon to further the same insidious aim. [passage omitted]

We would tell these American and European bodies that they are playing a transparent game and that the Palestinian land is not without its people or defenders. We would tell them that their intense hostility, hatred, and blind bias will not be accepted just like that. Nor will our people and revolutionaries under any circumstances allow these crimes to continue. [passage omitted]

Arab Ministerial Committee on Intifadah Meets

Algerian Minister Delivers Address

LD0602002390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The Palestinian issue and its political developments, the situation in the occupied territories in light of the popular uprising, and the Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine are points which are currently being discussed in Tunis by the foreign ministers of the eight member-countries of the Arab ministerial committee delegated to support the uprising. Our colleague Noureddine Boutakeia has the details:

[Boutakeia] The meeting began this evening at the Arab League building under the chairmanship of Sid Ahmed Ghazali, the Algerian foreign minister and chairman of the ministerial committee, and with the attendance of Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

According to sources close to the Arab League, the work, which is done in closed sessions, will concentrate on the latest developments in the occupied Arab territories, at the forefront of which are the immigration of Soviet Jews and the study of a working plan to revive Arab support to the uprising.

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat addressed the meeting and presented a resume in which he talked about the political dimensions of the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and the results of the political negotations which he held with Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Tarasov who is in charge of Middle Eastern affairs at the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

In his opening address to the meeting, Sid Ahmed Ghazali, Algerian foreign minister and chairman of the ministerial committee, said: The issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine constitutes a threat to the security of the Arab nation and to peace in the region. It is also a colonialist operation and a direct aggression against the Palestinian people and the whole Arab nation.

In his address, the Algerian foreign minister also talked about the tragic situation in which the Palestinian masses in the occupied territories live, as a result of the disturbances and oppressive practices of the Zionist occupation authorities against the sons of the uprising who are demanding their legitimate rights.

It is noteworthy that the eight countries participating in this meeting are represented by their foreign ministers. They are Algeria, Jordan, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, and Egypt.

The General Secretariat of the Arab League will issue a press statement at the end of the meeting.

Committee Meeting Reported

LD0602104490 Kuwait KUNA in English 0749 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, Feb 6 (KUNA)—The Arab League ministerial committee assigned to support the Palestinian intifadah in occupied Arab lands concluded meeting here last night, in presence of foreign ministers and representatives of committee members.

The eight-member ministerial committee discussed the situation in the occupied land after the intifadah entered its third year and examined regional and world developments in light of the Palestinian cause.

The talks also especially tackled the recent exodus of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and its repercussions on the peace process in the area.

The committee also reviewed its future media and political moves towards United Nations Security Council members, the European Community and other regional blocks.

The Arab League had decided in its extraordinary meeting held here last November to invite the Arab ministerial committee to follow its duties and hold contacts to boost the Palestinian intifadah.

Late last night, the Arab ministerial committee ended their meeting after listening to a report submitted by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and speeches by Algerian, Jordanian, Iraqi and Syrian foreign ministers.

Secretary General of the Arab League Chadli Klibi also delivered a speech.

'Arafat presented a full report on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the future moves to speed up the convocation of an international Middle East conference.

The eight-member committee was set up by an extraordinary Arab League council session in January 1988 and comprises foreign ministers of Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Iraq, Egypt and Palestine in addition to Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi.

Jordanian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim, Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh, Algerian Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Seyed Ghazali, Saudi Minister of State Muhammad Milhim, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar, Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, Palestinian leader Faruq Qaddumi and Egyptian Assistant Foreign Minister Sami Wahibh [name as received].

The committee had previously held several contacts with permanent Security Council members and other influential organizations to rally their support for the Palestinian intifadah and pressuring Israel into stopping its repressive measures against civilians in the occupied lands.

Syria's al-Shar' Meets With Klibi

JN0602212090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi here this afternoon. During the meeting, which was attended by Ahmad 'Isa, Syria's permanent representative at the Arab League, talks centered on the situation in the Arab sphere as well as on developments in the international arena.

Al-Shar' earlier received Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general and tripartite Arab committee envoy on Lebanon. They discussed the latest developments in the Lebanese arena, as well as efforts to reinforce the authority of the legitimate Lebanese Government.

Jordanian Official Speaks

JN0702215690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 19

[Excerpts] Tunis (PETRA)—Jordan has reiterated its complete and unlimited support for the Palestinian intifadah and the overall Palestinian political action.

Addressing the Arab Committee for Supporting the Palestinian Intifadah, which began its meeting in Tunis last night, Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said that the intifadah is a daily problem for the Jordanians, who feel the sufferings of our Palestinian brothers in their land and who share their sufferings and the difficult circumstances facing them. He said that Israel is increasing these difficulties as part of its continued attempts to contain and destroy the intifadah.

He affirmed that Jordan has spared no effort to carry out its pan-Arab duty to support the Palestinian move, since it firmly backs the Palestinian decisions. He added that Jordan has always done everything to enable the Palestinian people to remain steadfast on their soil and to continue their legitimate national struggle, adding that the disengagement of legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank was designed to generate a great political power for the Palestinian political action.

Al-Qasim stressed that Jordan is not and will never be a substitute homeland, because Jordan is a state with with its own people. Its existence is closely tied to the security of neighboring Arab countries. It constitutes a shield for many people who may or may not be aware of the importance and meaning of the sacrifices it is making beyond its capabilities.

Al-Qasim warned that Israel will work to realize strategic gains in various fields by exploiting the open door to Jewish emigration to Israel. One of these is to put an end to the intifadah and turn the democratic situation to its advantage by settling the immigrants in recently established settlements, pushing Palestinian residents to leave

their land and go abroad, and starting to implement schemes that do not end at the borders of these territories, but go beyond them to inflame the Arab heartland, thus threatening national and pan-Arab security and the Arab system on the whole.

While Al-Qasim affirmed that these issues call for Arab agreement on forms of international action to deal with them, he said that such action must not be an alternative to real and serious Arab efforts to confront the dangers of immigration in a practical manner.

He said: At the outset of my speech, I wish to express the importance of this meeting, which comes at a time when we are witnessing important developments which will inevitably have effects and repercussions on the Palestine question and the region as a whole. [passage omitted]

Al-Qasim then pointed out that Israel is now trying to exploit developments in international relations, as well as the current changes in Eastern Europe in order to consolidate its occupation of the Palestinian land and to carry out its plans, which threaten not only these territories, but also the territories of the neighboring Arab countries, the national security of each country, and pan-Arab security and order.

Due to the Zionist political and economic pressures exercised on the Soviet Union through some East European countries for a long time, the Soviet Union opened the door of Jewish immigration to Israel. He added that this did not emerge from nothing, but was a result of a continued and organized Israeli effort that reflects the Zionist understanding of the importance of the demographic factor for the continuation of Israel and its capability of implementing its expansionist plans. He also said that to achieve this goal, Israel pursued ways reminiscent of the ways in which Jewish immigration to Palestine was organized before and after the establishment of Israel.

Al-Qasim said that the numbers of the immigrants expected to arrive within the next few years do not exceed the numbers of those who arrived during the first period of immigration, and that we can imagine the effect of this wave of immigration in light of the historic experience connected with the wave of the first period of immigration.

I am not stating the dangers that the Jewish immigration poses to us as a nation, because we all know this well, but I would like to point out that through immigration, Israel will try to achieve strategic gains in various areas, including the destruction of the intifadah, changing the demographic situation in its favor by settling the immigrants in existing and new settlements, and forcing the residents to leave their lands. He said that everyone has heard Shamir's statements that the Soviet Jews' immigration is a great event requiring the establishment of Greater Israel, which should be viewed as an expression of his actual position.

We cannot accept allegations that the immigration falls within the framework of the human rights when everyone knows that these immigrants are being settled in other people's lands. He added that this constitutes a flagrant violation of the basic rights of those people, and that no one can exercise his rights by encroaching on another man's rights on his land and in his homeland.

Al-Qasim also said that some sides' opposition to Israeli annexation of the occupied territories, as well as to the spending of the government aid which it receives for that purpose, clashes with encouragement by Israel's supporters to collect tax-free donations and send them to Israel to be used to settle the immigrants in the occupied territories in a complete conflict with that declared policy. Moreover, there is agreement on the Israeli Government's demand for restricting the options of the immigrants for going only to Israel.

Al-Qasim also said that these matters and other matters require an Arab agreement on how to secure an international action to deal with this issue, although such a move should not be an alternative to a real and serious Arab effort to confront the dangers of immigration in a practical manner.

At the end of his address, he said: I believe that you agree with me that the various problems and challenges we are facing, including the Palestine question, the situation between Iraq and Iran, the Lebanese crisis, the water issue, and the current developments and their dangers to us cannot be dealt with effectively on an individual basis. We have to organize and fuse our energies, because the effect of these developments and problems will affect everyone.

Delegation To Discuss Soviet Jewish Emigration

JN0600214000 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1927 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The Arab ministerial committee entrusted with supporting the intifadah has decided to send a joint Arab delegation to the Soviet Union, the United States, and the EC member states to discuss the problem of the Soviet Jewish emigration to our occupied Palestinian territory.

The committee also decided to send another delegation to the Arab states to urge them to increase their support to our people's heroic intifadah. The committee charged a number of Arab permanent envoys to the Arab League with the task of drafting a communique on the committee's meetings. The communique will be issued later today. [passage omitted]

OPEC Affairs

Secretary Subroto on 'Security of Demand' Need

LD3001140590 Kuwait KUNA in English 1020 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Vienna, 30 [Jan] (KUNA)—OPEC is determined to press home the need for international oil cooperation

on a wider scale to enforce its long-standing view that market stability is the concern of producers and consumers alike.

According to the 1988 OPEC annual report, released here Tuesday by the organization's secretariat, OPEC is determined to step up dialogue with independent oil producing countries in the coming years and to formulate a long-term strategy.

A foreward to the report by OPEC Secretary General Dr. Subroto pointed out that the unity and solidarity that prevailed among the organization's 13 member countries "will surely stand us in good stead as we face the challenges of the 1990s".

He said OPEC remains committed to playing responsibly its role as the only organized group of oil producers, with a considerable share of the international oil market and more than three-quarters of the world's known oil reserves.

But he noted that the organization cannot be expected to bear alone the burden of production restraint. Other market participants too must see the benefits of stability and accept their role in achieving that end.

Subroto stressed the OPEC belief that security of oil supply should be matched by security of demand, a condition, he said, so essential for the economic advancement of all primary commodity producers.

"It is worth reminding those who would raise again the spectre of oil import dependency in the industrial world that the rapid oil price adjustments of 1973 and 1979 could never be repeated given the growing material interdependence of nations," said the editorial.

Subroto said it is time to take stock of past achievements and to stress the need to work together in international trade and economic development.

"For our part, we have undertaken to ensure security of oil supply and in return we expect to enjoy security of demand. Equitable returns for producers of raw materials can only be assured through a stable market—from which consumers too benefit," he said.

The OPEC secretary general noted that the events of 1988 proved once again the "vitality and resilience" of the organization with the year witnessing the end of the "unfortunate conflict between two founding members and with that the restoration of unity and solidarity to our ranks".

Despite a severe downturn in the oil market that year and the consequent reduction in revenues, OPEC was able to agree upon realistic quota allocations and establish effective production discipline "thereby averting a further deterioration in prices," he added.

Egypt

Reportage, Comment on Bus Attack Continues

Israeli Official Cautions Tourists

JN0902133290 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Ibrahim Shukri has stated that the attack on the Israeli tourists does not serve pan-Arab objectives and that solidarity with the Palestinian intifadah should be expressed in numerous other ways. The Socialist Labor Party leader added that admitting this does not dismiss the fact that the savage repressive acts in the occupied territories provoke deep feelings. He said security measures alone will not be sufficient to prevent such incidents in the future and added that Israeli tourism in Egypt should be suspended during the coming period.

Details on 2d Suspect Given

PM0802152490 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Police Distribute Photograph of a Suspect in Ismailia Operation"]

[Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—Security sources in Cairo yesterday said that police investigations into the Ismailia operation, which left 11 Israelis dead and and 17 wounded, have provided important information which "has led to a tightening of the net around the culprits."

The sources pointed out that the information collected so far indicates that the group which carried out the operation comprised three Palestinians. One is from Rafah in the Gaza Strip and is of Egyptian nationality; he has been arrested. The other two are believed to hold Jordanian passports.

The sources expressed their belief that the police are in possession of a clue that will lead to the arrest of the other two persons who took part in the operation.

The Egyptian authorities have distributed photographs of one of the persons suspected of involvement in the incident. He has Jordanian nationality, works as an electrician, is a resident of the Gaza Strip, is of Palestinian origin, and is called Akram Sa'id Shihab. All exit posts have been supplied with the photograph of this person, who was discovered to have come to Egypt 21 January from Syria via Cairo International Airport. He spent four days at the Helio-Park [as transliterated] Hotel in Heliopolis, a Cairo suburb. He was charged for two telephone calls that he made during his stay—one to Israel and the other to Algeria. [passage omitted]

Arms Used in Attack Said Smuggled

JN0802190790 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 13

[Excerpt] An important security report on the Israeli tourists' bus incident says: The hand grenades used by the Israeli bus attackers were brought into Egypt by the perpetrators through one of the Egyptian ports by hiding them in bundles of cloth, which made it difficult to discover, especially after the search and departure of the tourists from the Egyptian ports and airport were facilitated. The report also affirms that this kind of hand grenade is very powerful and can cause severe injury to people, and that they were not originally designed to destroy or burn buses. This was exactly the goal of the perpetrators when they planned the operation.

It was also discovered that the weapon and the bullets used in the incident were smuggled into Egypt, because this type of bullet does not exist in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Ghali on Attack, Soviet Jews

JN0802175590 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, by correspondent Yitzhaq Halevi; date not given—recorded]

[Halevi] Dr Butrus Ghali, welcome.

[Ghali] You are welcome.

[Halevi] The first pressing question: Can you tell for sure that the hands that pulled the trigger in the Israeli bus attack are not those of Egyptians?

[Ghali] We can't be positive before the investigation is completed. We hope inquiries will be completed fairly soon, and then we will have a clear picture about the attack against the Israeli tourists.

[Halevi] When do you expect the findings to be out?

[Ghali] Before long, I trust .

[Halevi] Do you see the criminal attack adversely affecting Egypt's image—with tens of thousands of tourists, as being a haven of security and a peace-oriented nation—and Egyptian-Israeli ties?

[Ghali] We have denounced and continue to denounce this outrage. We will hopefully overcome any adverse effects and hope friendly relations between Egypt and Israel will not be compromised. We look forward to a continuing flow of tourists because such contacts can build peace in this region.

[Halevi] So it is possible to reassure prospective Israeli tourists that they need not worry, because Egyptian authorities will provide for their safety and security during their stay in Egypt.

[Ghali] Over the past 10 years, we have succeeded in averting such incidents. Mind you, such incidents do occur everwhere around the world—in France, England, and in Israel itself. We must not take any chances, however, and we should take all possible precautions in order for tourists to continue to arrive from all parts of the world.

[Halevi] Will these precautions be taken in coordination with Israel, since we have on our hands the common enemy of terrorism?

[Ghali] No, no. These precautions are a domestic Egyptian affair and as such the responsibility of the Egyptian Interior Ministry.

[Halevi] One final question: The question being asked by the Israeli public is: Why is Egypt taking a stance against the return of Soviet Jews and family reunions?

[Ghali] No, Egypt is not taking such a stand. Egypt is opposed to their settling in occupied land, namely in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This has been Egypt's position since November 1977 and since the negotiations to conclude the peace treaty got under way. Egypt wants a ban on settlement building in the occupied territory, these being an impediment to peace, plus the fact that such action runs counter to international law.

[Halevi] Thank you.

[Ghali] Thank you.

PLO Holds Israel Responsible

PM0802165190 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[From Jamal 'Inayat, "agency" reports: "Palestinian Arrested on Charge of Partipating in Ismailia Operation"]

[Excerpts] From Jamal 'Inayat in Cairo and agencies in Tel Aviv—An Egyptian police source yesterday announced the arrest of one of the culprits who carried out the attack on the tourist bus in Ismailia. Meanwhile, with the death of three of the wounded, the death toll has risen to 11 Israelis. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, has emphasized that the PLO cares about Egypt's security and sovereignty. He said: As a matter of strategic principle, the PLO is against undermining that security and sovereignty.

Commenting yesterday on the aggression against Israeli tourists, Sa'id Kamal said that the PLO is fully committed to the Cairo declaration against terrorism issued in November 1985, despite the fact that many Palestinians have been killed and wounded in occupied Palestinian territory.

He added that the PLO will issue a statement once the details of the incident are known.

The Palestinian official also said that the extremist Likud Bloc in Israel might exploit the aggression against the Israeli tourists to support its views calling for annexation, control, expansion, and rejection of all peace calls and opposition to a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo.

Cairo sources have confirmed that an Egyptian envoy is expected to visit Israel in the next few days with a message from President Mubarak to Shamir on the Israeli tourist incident in Egypt.

The sources say that initial information gathered by the Egyptian security authorities after the incident and after inspection of the bus showed that the Egyptian tourist company which organized the trip was wrong not to inform the security authorities of the bus route, so that the road could be secured. This is in addition to the fact that the bus and the Israeli tourists carried distinguishing marks indicating they were Israelis. [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that past operations against Israelis concentrated on members of Israel's Mosad intelligence service and were carried out by Egypt's Revolution Organization. There was also an operation carried out against Israeli tourists by a soldier called Sulayman Khatir. Analysts in Egypt emphasize that the timing of the operation places certain concepts and possibilities at a dangerous crossroads, with the following in mind:

1. The imminent tripartite meeting of the Egyptian, Israeli, and U.S. foreign ministers to begin the steps toward the first-ever direct Palestinian-Israeli meeting.
2. The imminent announcement of sentences against those accused in the case of Egypt's Revolution Organization.
3. The threats made by the Islamic Jihad leaders to avenge the physical liquidation of some of the Islamic Jihad members in 'Ayn-Shams and Asyut recently. [passage omitted]

PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani held Shamir and the Israeli Government leaders responsible for the incident. In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Al-Surani said that Shamir's extremism and rejection of the Palestinian peace initiative have fed the spirit of extremism among the Arabs. The Palestinian official said that he could not rule out more such operations in other areas. This was not the first incident and it would not be the last.

The Palestinian official also said that this period is an opportunity for the United States to reconsider its support for Israel.

He denied Palestinian-Egyptian contacts on this matter. He added: We are upset because we want security for Egypt and its people, but with its own extremism Israel has planted extremism in the Arab world.

Al-Surani said that the PLO had nothing to do with the operation and that the PLO was serious about its peace initiative.

In Paris, Arab League representative Hammadi al-Sayd yesterday described the incident as a criminal act and attributed it to the whirlpool of violence for which he held the Israeli Government responsible. [passage omitted]

'Israeli Intransigence' Derided

PM0802121690 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Feb 90 p 13

[Editorial: "Israeli Intransigence Strengthens Hardliners"]

[Text] There have been two interpretations of the attack on the tourist bus on the Ismailia-Cairo road which killed 11 Israelis. The first is that behind the operation there were Arab groups opposed to the peace initiatives whose aim was to abort the entire process through blind terrorism.

The second interpretation is that behind the operation there were hard-line groups also opposed to any settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, whose aim was to undercut every peaceful move toward a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Neither of the two interpretations is close to the essential, obvious, and firm truth, which is that the operation (and any other similar operation) would not have occurred except for one significant, unquestionable factor, namely, Israeli intransigence and arrogance regarding any peace initiative aimed at reasserting the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and especially their right to a homeland and a state.

Israel's hostility to peace and its endless attempts to evade the dictates and prerequisites of peace have led, and will lead even more, to reaction against its intransigence, haughtiness, and insistence on wiping the Palestinian people off the map of political and cultural existence.

If Israel persists with its obdurate and intransigent policy, the rise of the hard-liners will increasingly become the natural result, in which case the identity of the perpetrators of blind terrorist operations will be of no importance, regardless of whether or not the hard-liners are Egyptians or non-Egyptians; and the scene of this blind terrorism will be of no importance, regardless of whether or not it happens to occur on Arab or non-Arab territory.

This is not meant to justify or beautify violence. On the contrary, just as we always condemn most severely Israel's recourse to violence and cruelty in dealing with Palestinian civilians, we equally, and just as strongly, condemn all other acts of blind terrorism against innocent civilians.

What we are giving here is an interpretation—not a justification—of the blind terrorist operations which sometimes occur in the name of the Arabs on Arab or non-Arab territory. Such operations are only a reaction to Israel's political and security violence against the Palestinian people in an attempt to crush the Palestinian people and reject every peace initiative which seeks to grant them their rights, particularly their rights to a homeland and a state.

The wave of extremism and violence will increase in proportion to Israeli society's, or Israeli extremists', ability to find people in the Western states who will cover up their extremism and intransigence.

Egypt, the PLO, and all the Arab states have on more than one occasion condemned all forms of blind terrorist operations, and perhaps this is why extremists try to commit such operations, which are contrary to their principles and policies.

It remains for the West to understand the deep Palestinian and Arab bitterness, which has reached the point of undermining the symbols of peace initiatives in the Arab world.

Bus Attack To 'Spur' Peace Process

JN0802212190 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 11

["Opinion" column by Mustafa Amin]

[Text] The attackers of the Israeli bus on the Ismailia road opened fire on the Palestinian cause, Egypt, and peace, as well as on the Israelis. They have sought to thwart the projected Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and the United States are to prepare for in Washington in a few days. They have sought to drive a wedge between Egypt and Israel by creating the illusion the culprits are Egyptians. They have sought to hurt the tourist industry in Egypt. Furthermore, they cannot stand the world's perceiving Egypt as a stable nation with a major say in the peace process.

They will be proven wrong on all these counts. This terrorist act will not bring the peace march to a halt. If anything, the incident will spur the parties to work even harder to bring the Washington talks to fruition, as their failure would set off an explosion in the volatile region. Neither will the Israelis declare war on Egypt because of the incident. And tourism in Egypt has so flourished as to be impervious to such an attack.

Israelis have been the targets of attacks in London; they have been assassinated in France; other European capitals have been the theater for such attacks. No one has, as a result, charged that the governments of these nations were responsible for terrorism. Nor have tourists stopped visting London because Israel's ambassador in the British capital was the target of an assassination bid. When an Arab killed eight Israelis in a bus attack, no one blamed Israel, and the Israeli tourist industry has not suffered as a consequence.

Egypt has stated that it deplores this savage attack on Israeli civilians on its soil. The atrocity was seen by

Egypt as being directed mainly at the peace process in the region. It declared that it will see to the safety and security of both its citizens and visitors. Many suspect that 'Arafat opponents are behind the attack, and that its masterminds have sought to undermine the close ties between Egypt and the Palestinian president. They sense that Egypt's vigorous support for the Palestinian cause enhances 'Arafat's standing and weakens his enemies, who have failed to overthrow him. Many think it unlikely that the culprits are nationals of Arab countries, because Egypt's relations with them are the best we can hope for.

We must be vigilant. The perpetrators of the bus attack will strike again. The rocks hurled by Palestinian kids do more harm to Israel than the bullets fired at the Jewish tourists.

Attack Meant To Undermine Stability

JN0802173090 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 7

[Article by Jalal Duwaydar: "A Crime Against the People of Egypt"]

[Text] No argument can justify the crime of attempting to undermine Egypt's stability and weaken the Arab position confronting the Israeli rejection of a dialogue aimed at establishing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

This terrorist act against the lives of a group of civilian Israeli tourists which took place on the Ismailia-Cairo highway could only have been carried out by an enemy of the Egyptian and Palestinian people.

This act is a plot aimed at striking two targets simultaneously. The first is to undermine Egypt's stability and its people's aspirations for an honorable life under further stability and an increased national income. The second aim is to banish all peace efforts to reach a settlement that will end the suffering of the Middle East peoples, headed by the Palestinian people.

Attacking a group of civilians which came on a tourist trip to Egypt and annihilating them with bullets and grenades is in no way a heroic action. Not only do such acts serve no cause, but they also arouse the disgust and condemnation of world public opinion.

The world's support for us and the Palestinian people against the terrorist Israeli practices in the occupied territories should be justification enough to prevent the honorable citizens who are loyal to Arab rights from killing and persecuting civilians. Following the same extremist Israeli approach causes us to lose the world's sympathy and support for our issues, especially as this support has become one of the most important causes for anxiety inside Israel's ruling establishment.

Egypt struggles for the sake of its people's well-being and for the sake of the Arab causes. It refuses to allow its territory to be turned into an arena for terrorist operations.

Those who chose terrorism as a profession must look for a land other than Egypt to exercise their profession on. Whoever opts for struggle and resistance must chose the real arena of this heroism, which is the land of occupied Palestine, not Egypt whose people have suffered enough.

Egypt will most vigorously maintain its stability and security through the solidarity and cohesion of its sons. Stability and security are the guarantee for an honorable life and a prosperous future for the coming generations. Undermining Egypt's stability is the wish of all Egypt's internal and external enemies. It is aimed at diminishing chances of investment and halting the establishment of projects which provide new job opportunities for the young men, in addition to increasing income to overcome the financial crunch.

What happened can only be described as a plan to undermine the prevailing atmosphere of safety and security in Egypt to keep Egypt immersed in endless problems. Any terrorist crime on Egyptian territory is basically aimed against every Egyptian individual looking for a life free of suffering and problems.

'Positive' Result for Israel's Likud

PM0802170490 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 9 Feb 90 p 13

[Unattributed article: "Bus Operation Torpedoes Baker's Peace Initiative"]

[Text] The tourist bus operation on the Rafah-Isamilia-Cairo road has torpedoed all the U.S. State Department's "hopes" of arranging a direct Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, and opens a big breach in the wall of the U.S. peace process. This could possibly freeze the process for the next three months and give Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir a chance to catch his breath in his pursuit of the policy of "frustrating peace," as directly reflected in his postponement of the meetings of Likud's Central Committee. That is because the positive results of the bus operation (from an Israeli viewpoint) exceeded the possible results the Likud extremists had hoped for in their endeavor to embarrass Shamir at the party congress or in their call for 'Ezer Weizman to be brought to trial for his contacts with the PLO, or even in their attempts to place certain figures in the West Bank and Gaza under house arrest or in detention and tighten the iron fist. All these factors are interconnected in the course of the "frustrating peace."

The operation was timed to coincide with the reports, confirmed by diplomatic sources, that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker has invited Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to meet with him in Europe after his visit to Moscow. An Egyptian source expected the meeting to

be held over two successive days beginning 12 February to agree on the formation of the Palestinian delegation and issues pertaining to the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. European diplomatic sources also said that the Palestinian side showed great flexibility on the question of formation of the delegation, which embarrassed Moshe Arens who hastened to declare that Israel would accept no "compromise solution."

As speculations continue about the identity of the perpetrators of the operation, observers do not rule out the involvement of the Israeli external intelligence service (Mosad) in the operation. They recall the Lavon scandal and the Cairo explosions and emphasize that Yitzhaq Shamir is partial to intelligence operations, having been one of the most prominent participant in them from the time of Count Bernadotte's assassination until he assumed power as Menahem Begin's successor. There have been many Mosad operations against Jews. Selecting Egypt as the scene of the operation was a part of the process of exporting the Israeli crisis and holding others—especially Arab parties—responsible for the failure of the "U.S. peace process."

Egyptian security sources expect the investigations to take a long time because the attackers managed to escape, but that will not prevent the fulfillment of some of the political objectives of the operation.

Editor Assesses Incident

JN0802104290 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[Article by chief editor Mahfuz al-Ansari: "The Israeli Bus Incident Provides Support for the Occupation"]

[Text] I do not like to be hasty in discussing a serious subject such as the attack against the Israeli tourist "bus", in which a number of people were killed or wounded.

Nor do I like to start with condemnation, denouncement, and regret—a very easy thing to start with, but of very little use.

Nor do I like to commit the error of making justifications through analysis—that takes the form and structure of logic—of the facts and developments of oppression, murder, and expulsion against Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to draw the conclusion that the "bus incident" is a link in the chain of logical terrorism in its beginnings, ends, and reactions; in other words, the chain of violence and counterviolence.

I refuse to handle this serious incident from this concept and on this basis.

The issue is bigger than condemnation, justification, and regret.

It is, indeed, too serious to be taken into the labyrinths of futile debate, in search of the causes in their abstract, superficial, and "automatic" form, if I may say so.

The issue is deeper and more important than this because the incident took place on the territory of Egypt—the Egypt of peace, dialogue, and struggle for the restoration of rights, the return of land, and the establishment of the Palestinian state.

The issue is deeper and more important because the timing of the attack was not accidental. The attack took place days before the Geneva meeting among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and the United States—'Abd-al-Majid, Arens, and Baker—which aims at reaching agreement and laying the bases for the initiation of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo with the participation of Egypt.

The issue is more serious and has far-reaching implications because the incident provides "great cover" for the crime of the age—the emigration of 750,000 Soviet Jews to Israel and the land of the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, the emigration of three quarters of a million Jews to settle in lands of others and to expel the owners of the homeland. These immigrants will constitute the beginning of a greater project to settle five or six million Soviet and European Jews on the land of Palestine over the next five or 10 years. And they will be the forward base for establishing Greater Isreal, which extends from the Euphrates to the Nile.

With all this, and above all this, the incident fully aborts all peace efforts and endeavors. It intentionally delays a process that has already started, a process in which all parties put their ideas and tools with a view to opening a direct peace dialogue between the two genuine parties to the conflict:

—President Mubarak's 10 points
—The Palestinian peace initiative, outlined by 'Arafat before the international community in Geneva.
—Shamir's peace plan, which is based on the idea of electing Palestinian representatives in the talks.
—Baker's original and modified five-point plan.
—And above all an international peace plan.

The last is an unwritten plan, but a declared public will, effective and pressing, and supported by a new world climate that daily ends tensions and removes the causes of conflict and hostility. A climate that replaces confrontation with dialogue. A climate where international cooperation replaces rivalry and conflict. Based on this logic, we cannot see the "bus incident" as removed from these facts;

The decisive facts are that the attack, in its aims and results, is nothing but an intentional and pre-meditated attempt to support the policy of rejection, the policy of terrorism and violence, and the policy of tension and crisis; it is an attempt to maintain the situation as it is as a prelude for implementing a wider and more comprehensive scheme that targets the entire region.

The facts indicate that the incident is nothing but an attempt "through fire, blood, terrorism, and blackmail" to end the peace momentum, to support and perpetuate

the occupation, to undermine the hopes for dialogue, and to torpedo efforts aimed at retaining rights and creating stabiity.

It does not matter here that the efforts and endeavors are in their early stages and making their first steps on the right path.

It does not matter that the march is difficult, that progress is stumbling, and that achievement is limited and slow.

What matters is the existence of the will and the continuation of efforts and honest and persistent work.

It can, therefore, be said that the identity and nationality of the perpetrators of the attack are of little importance. At the end of the day, as well as at the beginning, the terrorists meet at one point and share a common goal.

There is little significance for the difference in the "terrorist identity" of the perpetrators, whether they be Egyptians with Palestinian nationality, Israelis with Israeli identity cards, or Palestinians using the name and the identity as a passport to perform evil deeds, strike at the cause, block the road to solution, and break "the peace siege" around those who are being smothered with the tactical moves and strategic goals.

It might be useful to prove our point through a quick revision of reactions to the attack:

Shall we start with the reactions of Ariel Sharon and Yitzhaq Shamir, the heroes of rejection in Israel?

Or shall we start with the reactions of Yitzhaq Rabin and Shim'on Peres?

Shamir's reaction was of two dimensions:

The first is "ideological", and here he considered the incident as assertion of his philosophy and policy, which maintains that hatred to Israel in the Middle East remains unchanged, and, therefore, his policy of oppression, expulsion, and murder, is right. Shamir didn't pause for a second to think and perhaps see the incident as a spontaneous reaction to a continuing and escalating policy of violence.

The second dimension is practical and procedural, but it is no less serious than the first because it takes the incident as an excuse and justification for further violence.

The Israeli prime minister has decided not to take part in the three-way meeting, scheduled to take place in Geneva next week among the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, and the United States. Therefore, it will not be possible to hold the meeting, and this means discontinuation of the peace process and indefinite postponement of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

This is exactly what the attack on the Israeli tourist bus was aimed at, regardless of the perpetrators.

For his part, Sharon was boosted with this painful incident; he called for using violence and terrorism and for attacking "violence and terrorism" inside and outside Israel. This is the essence of Sharon's policy and ideology; he is the one who describes and names terrorism, and practices it on all scenes and against everybody. He used the incident as a cover and an excuse. Sharon adds: What happened proves that those who thought the climate has improved were wrong.

But there were opposing reactions from Egypt, the United States, Perez, Rabin, and the Israeli President Herzog.

They all have realized the dimensions and goals of the operation. And through their reactions, they all reflected a will to deprive those who tried to block the road of peace and stop the march toward a just solution of the opportunity.

Israeli President Herzog says: Through their action, they sought to hit the Egyptian-Israeli peace and the attempt to achieve a Middle East peace.

Rabin and Peres said the same thing, and so did Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the U.S. State Department spokesman, and the Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal.

Through its chief, 'Arafat, the PLO announced its renunciation of terrorism in Cairo in 1985. It supported this by a resolution of the Palestine National Council in Algiers, when it opted for negotiations as a way to solution. After this, 'Arafat put forward his initiative in Geneva.

What is more important than this, however, is that the Palestinian people's intifadah, as it enters its third year, is still able, despite Israel's terrorism and oppression, to distinguish between its rejection of the occupation and determination to gain independence through its sharp weapon—the stone—and between the armed struggle, which has its field away from civilians—and this is the true struggle in its purity and essence.

Israel Seen as Source of Middle East 'Terrorism'

JN0802160190 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 6 Feb 90 p 6

["A Daily Journey" column by Fu'ad Fawwaz]

[Text] It is an ugly incident that cannot be accepted by logic, reason, or humanity, especially when two people spray a tour bus with a hail of bullets and hand grenades, killing eight people and wounding 22 others, including one Egyptian. Yes, it is an ugly crime. To begin with, we do not tolerate terrorism. What sin did the civilian passengers commit, and what was their crime? Moreover, the incident has created problems for Egypt, which expects some money from the touristic sector to repair its economy. Let us ask ourselves frankly and without any tension: Who is responsible for the spread of terrorism? Who has introduced it into our peaceful region?

Who killed Lord (Moyen) in Cairo in 1944? Who terrorized Egyptian society by carrying out assassination operations in 1954 known as the Lavon affair? Who violated the sovereignty of a state such as Tunisia and killed some PLO leaders in 1977? Who violated the sovereignty of Lebanon and assassinated the PLO's Kamal Nasir and his brothers in April 1973? Who spread fear and terrorism in the Arab countries? Was it not Israel? Who violated the sovereignty of Cyprus and assassinated some PLO members there?

I would like to ask the prominent Egyptian journalist who described the incident as a crime: Why did you not describe the breaking of the bones of the Palestinian children in the occupied territories as a crime? Why did you not describe forcing pregnant women in the occupied territories to abort with gas as a crime? Why did you not describe the killing of Palestinians in Gaza Strip and the West Bank everyday as a crime? Why did you not describe the settling of half a million Soviet Jews in the West Bank and Gaza after the expulsion of the Arab residents as a crime? One friend asked me if the incident would affect peace talks on the Middle East. I answered: No, because there have never been peace talks!

Mubarak Sends 'Urgent' Message to 'Arafat

NC0802152090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1502 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has sent an urgent message to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat concerning recent developments in the Middle East peace process. The Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, said today that he had telephoned 'Arafat to convey the message.

'Abd-al-Majid Returns From ICO Conference

NC0802213590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo from Jeddah this evening after a two-day official visit to Saudi Arabia to attend the celebration of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] 20th anniversary.

In an arrival statement, he said the celebration provided an opportunity for him to hold consultations with a number of ministers and senior officials who attended the ceremony, including the nonaligned group head, the representative of the UN secretary general, and the ICO secretary general, on numerous regional and international issues.

He noted that he addressed the conference on behalf of the Arab delegations. He said he held two meetings with the Senegalese and Mauritanian foreign ministers, who are scheduled to arrive in Cairo in a few days time to pursue talks on the Senegalese-Mauritanian dispute.

He disclosed that he had discussed with the ministers participating in the ICO celebration the preparations for the Islamic countries' foreign ministers conference, due to be held in Cairo in May or June.

'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the Islamic countries possess resources and potentials enabling these countries to confront the challenges.

Further Reaction to Immigration of Soviet Jews

Al-Baz, Soviet Envoy Meet

NC0802114390 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met with the Soviet ambassador in Cairo today. During the meeting, they reviewed developments in the Middle East, issues related to the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, and arrangements for President Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union scheduled next month.

Soviet Envoy Holds News Conference

NC0502191290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev has disclosed that President Husni Mubarak's message to Mikhail Gorbachev deals with finding ways to prevent the failure of efforts to solve the Middle East issue.

He said the issue of the Soviet Jews' emigration to and settlement in Israel will be among the topics Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will discuss in Moscow on 7 and 8 February.

In a news conference he held in Cairo today about Soviet Jews' immigrating to Israel, he said President Mubarak's message is part of Egyptian-Soviet consultations over how to stop the negative repercussions from the Western newspapers' campaign about the Soviet Jews' immigration to Israel. The Soviet ambassador said that this campaign, which Israel instigated for political and propaganda reasons, seeks to annul the efforts being exerted to reach a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and to restore peace and stability to the Middle East.

At his news conference the Soviet ambassador emphasized that this subject must be tackled calmly and deliberately. He indicated that the campaign has started even before the Soviet Jews have begun to emigrate from the Soviet Union. The ambassador indicated that during the past 10 years, only 10 to 12 percent of all Jewish emigrants have gone to live in Israel. He said that according to Israeli statistics, only 100 Soviet Jews are now living in the occupied territories.

He said that the emigration of Soviet Jews from the Soviet Union began over 10 years ago and that the majority of them prefer to go to the United States and Western countries.

The Soviet ambassador emphasized that his country has never recognized Israel's occupation of the occupied territories, including the Palestinian territories, and that it opposes settling Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. He indicated that Israel signed an international agreement in 1949 that prevents demographic changes in the territories Israel has occupied but that regrettably, it did not respect the international conventions.

The Soviet ambassador reaffirmed that the Soviet Jews have no desire to go to Israel. He also pointed to the recently issued U.S. immigration law that limits the number of immigrants to the United States.

The ambassador again emphasized the Soviet Union's principled stand on the Middle East peace issue and its support for convening an international peace conference attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Immigration 'Weapon' Against Palestinians

JN0702153290 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Jan 90 p 20

["Diary" column by Ahmad Baha'-al-Din: "The Crime of the Age"]

[Text] It has not occurred to those concerned with human rights—be they prophets of heavenly messages or leaders, politicians, and thinkers—that this Russian emigration (half a million) from East Europe to the West Bank would be one of the scenarios of human rights.

This is an invasion. It is an explicit and extremely flagrant invasion unparalleled in human history. Invaders usually occupy land and both rule and exploit its people, but this invasion is designed to expel people and replace them with others through absolute brute force. Nobody describes the relationship among the people of Palestine in the West Bank on a scale that is equal or close to the power of the two superpowers combined, Russia and America, materially, morally, and politically, in numbers, equipment, and influence. [sentence as published] It is an invasion in every the sense of the word, although no tanks or rockets have been used.

The United States has exerted continuous pressure on the Soviet Union to respect human rights, and the Soviet Union has complied without distinguishing between customary human rights on the one hand, and human rights as a means of invasion on the other. This has resulted in the sanctification of the Jews' rights and the downgrading of the Palestinians' rights. Hence, human rights have been used as a weapon against human rights; the Jews' human rights against the Palestinian Arabs' rights.

One should exercise human rights in his place of residence and in his homeland, and I do not know of any difference in the human rights granted to Jews and those granted to others in Russia. Even if there is difference, it would be only natural that the Jews seek justice there. But this is an explicit invasion of what is left of Palestine, and will bring the region further wars, destruction, conflicts, and grudges. The minute Russia allowed the conquest emigration, America closed its door to immigration. It is an emigration enforced by the two sides to Palestine in general and to the West Bank in particular. It is a decision to expel the Arabs against their will, not a decision to allow the Jews to travel as they please. It is a decision that gives them the right to choose even the land, houses, trees, name, and homeland of others.

What should the Arab nation do? What should the Arab governments do? What should world public opinion do? We should quickly think of these questions. All of us should think of them, and the readers should come up with ideas and suggestions regarding them.

United Action Urged

NC0702210190 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic to the Arab World 1800 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Sabri Sabihah commentary]

[Excerpts] The Arab nation is facing big and serious challenges which require it to adopt a decisive historical stand uniting its will and manifesting its ability to confront these challenges, defend its national interests and issues, and prove its influence in a world where changes are taking place at a dazzling pace. Perhaps the greatest and most dangerous challenge to peace and stability in the Arab region now and in the near and distant future is the overt challenge represented by what is happening now within the sight and sound of the world. It is the immigration of the Soviet Jews who are arriving in Israel in waves and whom Israel is seeking to settle in the occupied Arab territories in accordance with a plan which aims at settling about 1 million Jews before the end of the century. [passage omitted]

Israel is exploiting the state of international detente to implement its plan for a great Jewish immigration and the building of a strong and greater Israel, as they call it. Meanwhile, Israel is piling up obstacles to the peace efforts and closing all doors. Ari'el Sharon, Israel's trade and industry minister and a Likud member, made a serious statement in which he pointed out that Egypt must be excluded from the Middle East peace process because of its close ties with the PLO. Sharon's statement can only mean that Israel does not want peace because it wants land so that it can expand. It wants the new Jewish immigrants to settle in the occupied territory and thus torpedo any hope for peace. This goal runs counter to the logic of the evolution of events and history which must prevail in the end. Let Sharon and all those who seek to complicate the situation realize that a just

and durable peace is the only solution which will allow the region's states to realize their aspirations for security and stability.

What is important is that the Arab nation should confront the challenge represented by the wide-scale Jewish immigration and the settling the immigrant Jews in the occupied Arab territory with its united will, full weight, and influential and fruitful action to block the plan for the expanded Jewish immigration. Israel would then have no option but to acknowledge that the choice by Egypt, the Palestinians, and the Arabs for a just and durable peace represents the only practical solution because it is a solution which conforms with the logic of justice, international legitimacy, and history.

Help To Halt 'Peril' Sought

NC0602122090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari: "It Is Imperative To Confront Jewish Immigration to Israel"]

[Text] In view of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel—one of the most important and serious developments of the past few weeks—many people in various parts of the world wonder whether the hope of attaining a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue, and consequently establishing a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East, has begun to evaporate, particularly in light of Israel's intransigent stands and its scheme to settle Jews from the USSR and other countries in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It is no secret that Israel aims, through this particular scheme, to create a new fait accompli that will make it impossible to resolve the Palestinian issue—the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In this case, the door will be left wide open for acts of violence and counterviolence that will submerge the region. Israel recently began, in light of the Soviet policy of openness to the world, to intensify this settlement activity. This also explains the secret of the visits carried out by two senior Israeli officials to the USSR in the past few weeks.

According to reports, 1,000 Soviet Jews emigrate to Israel weekly and are housed in West Bank settlements. The reports add that 40 Soviet Jewish families have actually arrived in Ariel settlement in the West Bank to live permanently there.

The extent of the Israeli scheme becomes clear when one considers the Israeli settlement plan which aims to bring in 750,000 Jews from abroad in the next five years. The Israeli plan also aims to raise the number of settlers in the West Bank and Gaza to 1 million people before the year 2000.

It is clear from the policies that Israel employs against the Palestinians that it is assiduously seeking to empty the West Bank and Gaza of its Palestinian residents in order to settle the incoming Jews.

Israeli leaders commit a grave error if they imagine, even for one moment, that these Soviet Jews who flood Israel in by the thousand will constitute a major prop for Shamir's hardline rightist policy and that they will destroy one of the major threats to Israel, namely the continued numerical superiority of the Palestinians. This explains why Israel prevents Palestinians—particularly children and youths because they represent the future Palestinian generation—who visit their relatives in Jordan and elsewhere from returning to their homes. It also explains why Israel expels other Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. In addition, there are the killings, torture, and disfigurement of Palestinians at the hands of the Israeli occupation forces.

In order to make the situation clearer, it is enough to note that the Israeli authorities have demolished 38 houses in the West Bank since the beginning of this month. In addition to this, people have been killed and injured by Israeli bullets.

We conclude from all this that the Israeli Government still dreams of establishing a Greater Israel. This Israeli policy does not serve the cause of regional peace. Indeed, it completely undermines it and engulfs the entire region in a conflict the consequences of which cannot be foreseen. Therefore it is necessary, indeed imperative, for Arab countries and organizations to make diligent contacts with Western and Eastern countries and with the United Nations to halt the peril represented by this immigration, particularly as the USSR is not willing to adopt a firm stand on the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, as was confirmed by the Soviet ambassador to Jordan two days ago.

Finnish Defense Minister Arrives on 3-Day Visit

NC0802103790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0918 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—Finnish Defense Minister Ole Norrback arrived in Cairo this morning. He heads a delegation that will visit Egypt for three days. [passage omitted]

Meets With Defense Minister

NC0802122390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1031 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 8 Feb (MENA)—This morning General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, received Finnish Defense Minister Ole Norrback and the delegation accompanying him, who arrived in Cairo earlier today on a 3-day visit to Egypt. During the meeting, attended by Finnish ambassador in Cairo (Elizabeth Nahilta), they reviewed aspects of military cooperation, ways to promote it, exchanging military expertise, and the situation in the region. During his visit, the

Finnish defense minister will inspect the Finnish contingent in the Multinational Force and Observers in Sinai, certain military educational centers, and military factories.

Somali Official Arrives in Cairo From Libya

NC0602165490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1628 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Commodore Sa'id 'Abdallah 'Umar, deputy commander in chief of the Somali Armed Forces and commander of the Somali Navy, arrived in Cairo this afternoon from Libya on his way home. Commenting upon arrival, he said that during his visit to Libya he delivered a message to Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from Somali President Siad Barre which dealt with the situation in the Horn of Africa and strengthening relations between Libya and Somalia.

Hungarian Industrial Delegation Arrives 3 Feb

NC0402111990 Cairo MENA in English 2229 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, Feb 3 (MENA)—A Hungarian industrial delegation arrived here tonight, led by the deputy minister of industry. The delegation, also comprising 18 company directors, will attend the annual meeting of the Egyptian and Hungarian businessmen, to start here on Monday.

The meeting will be inaugurated by Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Dr. Yusuf Wali and will also be attended by ministers of industry and electricity. The meeting is to discuss the possibility of establishing a project for manufacturing car spare parts, an agricultural project and a joint company for overland transport.

'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Nabi, head of the Egyptian businessmen's association, who is chairing the Egyptian side in the meeting, said during the previous meeting in Hungary last year an exhibition of the Egyptian products was held there and achieved a great success.

Sudan

Government Thanks Zaire for Repatriating Soldiers

EA0802100490 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] In his office at the Republican palace this morning, Staff Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, Revolution Command Council member, met the Zairian charge d'affaires. In a statement after the meeting, the Zairian charge d'affaires stressed that the meeting dealt with examination of bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of strengthening and developing them in various fields. He added that Brig. Kassiano conveyed the Sudan Government's thanks to the Zairian president for his role in transporting the Sudanese soldiers, who crossed the borders recently into Zaire. He said those soldiers had now been repatriated to Maridi.

RCC Official Welcomes Mobutu Proposal on Talks

EA0802161290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and chairman of the national dialogue conference, has announced Sudan welcomes the proposal by Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko, for convening a new round of talks with the rebel movement to establish peace in the country.

In a news statement today his excellency added that the Dutch minister of cooperation and development had stressed to him that his country's ministry was endeavoring to reschedule Dutch support to Sudan for this year [words indistinct] estimated at 85 million guilders.

It is worth noting that Col Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah returned to the country today after an official visit to Belgium, Switzerland and Holland, during which he carried letters from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, RCC chairman, to the officials of these states concerning mutual and joint cooperation.

He also briefed the officials in these states on the recommendations of the national dialogue conference on peace issues and the government's efforts to establish peace in the country.

SPLA Confirms Next Peace Talks in Zaire

EA0802165890 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] The SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Sudanese People's Liberation Army] confirmed that the next round of peace talks with the junta will be in Zaire. The official spokesman of the SPLM/SPLA political military high command today confirmed to Radio SPLA that the movement's delegation to the next peace talks with the junta in Khartoum has already been formed and is ready to go to Zaire any time when the junta is ready. The ball is now in Khartoum's court, he added.

The spokesman explained that Zaire was agreed as a venue after the last meeting on 27th January between President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and Comrade John Garang de Mabior, chairman and commander in chief SPLM/SPLA. President Mobutu has said that President Husni Mubarak of Egypt, in his capacity as the chairman of the OAU, had written a letter to President Mobutu requesting him to mediate in the conflict in Sudan. President Mobutu accepted President Mubarak's request and, as a result, he sent a plane to take the chairman and commander in chief SPLM/SPLA Comrade John Garang de Mabior to meet him in Zaire. The meeting took place on Saturday 27th January.

The spokesman concluded his statement by reaffirming the movement's commitment to peace and said that the SPLM/SPLA will spare no effort to see that a peaceful resolution to the present conflict in Sudan is brought about as speedily as possible.

SPLA Inflicts 'Heavy' Casualties, Claims Victory

EA0702223390 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] forces dispersed an enemy convoy between Maridi and (Ras Wulu) inflicting heavy casualties in men and materiel. [sound of martial music]

SPLA forces of the "Bright Star" campaign (?phase three), yesterday, 6th February 1990, dispersed a junta's military convoy that was moving from Maridi to (Ras Wulu) in Western equatoria. Fighting started at 1430 hours and the enemy was finally dispersed after three hours of fighting. The enemy ran in disarray in two directions back towards Maridi, leaving behind many dead bodies. Eight vehicles were completely destroyed, and the following captured in good condition: three trucks, Mercedes number 74/261; Mercedes CD 69/52; and Mercedes number RG 8021; one 106-mm recoiled [as heard] gun; two (Gronov) heavy machineguns numbers 6007 and 279; three MG-42 medium machineguns numbers 00749, 01383 and 00728; two RPG-7 guns numbers 553 and 481; two 60-mm mortars numbers 61937 and 171214; and many G3 assault rifles that are still being recovered in the bushes. Large quantities of ammunition of 120mm, 106mm, B-10, (Gronov), 12.7-mm, G3, and hand grenades and anti-personnel mines. [sounds of martial music]

SPLA To Release Mistakenly Abducted Physicians

EA0802160290 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] The medical relief organization, Medecins Sans Frontieres, says Sudanese rebels have promised to release two doctors they kidnapped during a raid on the garrison town of Malakal. The two, a Dutchman and a Belgian woman, were abducted on Friday [2 February]. A spokesman for the orgnization said it had been told by the Sudanese People's Liberation Army that the doctors had been captured by mistake. As it was too dangerous to return them to Malakal they will be taken to Ethiopia or Kenya. Earlier, the organization's Dutch section said six Dutch workers were being withdrawn temporarily from southern Sudan because their safety could not be guaranteed.

Army Officer's Arrest, Appeal Announced

EA0802105090 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] reliable sources in Juba and Khartoum have reported that Brigadier Kamilo Odehi Odongi [recently appointed commissioner of Eastern Equatoria Province] has been expelled from Juba to Khartoum under open arrest. Brig. Kamilo Odongi is reported to have vehemently protested the deployment of Battalion 115 and other elements of the 11th Brigade in the direction of Yei in the Azm al-Rijal and Usud al-Ghabah convoys. The brigadier is reported to have [been] aggrieved and agitated by the deployment of his units to Western Equatoria and got angry at the new commander of Equatoria, Major General PSC [Passed Staff College] Sasr al-Din Sulayman, an action which led to his banishment to Khartoum.

In Khartoum, Brig. Kamilo Odongo contacted an SPLA element at the general headquarters and requested that he ask radio SPLA to carry an appeal to his troops of Battalion 115 and others in the Azm al-Rijal and Usud al-Ghabah convoys now in the Lanya area to (?resist) the movement in the wrong direction, and instead to go to their villages.

Asked by the SPLA element whether such a statement on Radio SPLA in his name would not endanger his life, Brig. Kamilo said he has an open mind, and that he does not care what the junta does to him.

It is on this understanding that radio SPLA makes this announcement in the name of Brig. Kamilo Odongi to his troops of Battalion 115 and other units in the Azm al-Rijal and Usud al-Ghabah to (?resist) the movement forward, to do as he told them, and to go to their villages.

Since this is the request of Brig. Kamilo, Radio SPLA declaims responsibility of what might happen to Brig. Kamilo Odongi as a result, but we commend him for his courageous and nationalist stand, and urge other patriotic officers to take similar and appropriate unilateral decisions and actions wherever they are and according to the possibilities. [sounds of martial music]

Bahrain

John Kelly Confers With Foreign Minister 8 Feb

JN0802210390 Manama WAKH in English 1620 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Manama, Feb 8 (GNA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah met here today with U.S Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East and South East Asian Affairs John Kelly, currently visiting Bahrain.

The meeting reviewed Bahraini-U.S relations and ways of boosting bilateral cooperation mainly in economic and technical fields.

They also reviewed political developments in the Arab and international arenas mainly Middle East issue, Lebanese crisis, the situation in the Gulf and efforts experted to implement the U.N Resolution No. 598 in order to achieve peace between Iraq and Iran.

Changes in Eastern Europe and their reflections on the international situation, the immigration of Soviet Jewish to occupied Palestine and its negative impact on efforts to solve the Middle East issue were also reviewed.

Discusses Peace, World Changes

JN0902102890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Manama, 9 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, this morning received John Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, who is on a visit to Manama. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah and Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Khalifah Al Khalifah.

In a statement to WAKH after the meeting, Kelly said he discussed with his highness the amir of Bahrain the situation in the region, the peace process in the Middle East, and events in East Europe. The U.S. official said the objective of his current regional tour is to reiterate the U.S. desire for stability in the Gulf, to reaffirm its friendship with Gulf states, and to learn the opinions of the leaders of these countries on the current changes in the world.

Kuwait

Mubarak Demeanor Toward Bus Incident Praised

JN0802150190 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 7 Feb 90 p 10

["Opinion" column: "Tackled Efficiently" by Ahmad al-Jarallah]

[Text] In the recent attack on the Israeli bus carrying tourists outside Cairo, the Egyptian President Husni Mubarak alone behaved with wisdom and within the framework of the political game which abide by international treaties.

President Mubarak reacted positively to contain the incident—because what occurred did not represent the true Egyptian wish which strives for achieving peace.

A person other than the President could have been tempted to indulge in national issues which more often than not are for personal gains rather than for the highest interests of the nation.

If the attackers succeeded in evading security forces, it must be stated that the action was not Egyptian or even Arab, particularly when Egypt, Israel and the U.S. are preparing to commence peace option talks.

This compels us to call upon Egypt to ensure the intentions of those who wanted to resume fraternal relations with Egypt and hope these sides have no hand in the attack and that Egypt remains aloof of any security penetration.

Arabs have expressed their wish to achieve peace and tranquility in the area. Forces desiring to install hurdles, are certainly mistaken if they think that Egypt is the place for such ventures. Egypt, who fought long years for its principles, will not allow the handful to benefit from continuous tension in the region and transfer their trading in nationalism to its lands.

We also hope that this attack was not carried by some of the Israeli hardline extremists who do not wish to achieve peace with their Arab neighbours and are not willing to concede a Palestinian national home for peace.

Once again we reaffirm that the Egyptian President behaved sagely towards the attack through his telephone contacts with officials in Tel Aviv. He also succeeded in focusing the attention of the entire world who are closely watching the peace process between Israel and its Arab neighbours to the important fact that the attack bore unmistakable signs of suspicions—certainly not Egyptian and perhaps not Arab too.

Egypt, U.S. Ask PLO To Condemn Bus Attack

JN0802213090 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 23

[By 'Abd-al-Karim Abu-al-Nasr from Paris]

[Excerpt] Well-informed Arab sources have revealed to AL-QABAS that Egypt has asked the PLO leadership to issue an official statement condemning the tourist bus attack, which resulted in the death of nine Israelis and the injury of 17 others. The sources also revealed that the United States also sent a similar piece of advice to the Palestinian officials. The sources affirmed that the PLO leadership is not willing or anxious to meet this request.

Meanwhile, well-informed U.S. sources told AL-QABAS that in his contacts with Washington, the Israeli Prime

Minister strongly reiterated his demand that the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue be held in a country other than Egypt after the bus attack on the Ismailia-Cairo highway. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Yemeni Interior Ministers' Meeting Ends

EA0802095690 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The final session of the joint monthly meeting between brothers Brigadier Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, member of the Politburo, deputy prime minister and minister of interior; and Dr. 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, minister of interior and member of the Permanent Committee in the northern part of the homeland, was held this morning in the Ministry of Interior building.

The session dealt with the forms of unified work of the Ministry of Interior in the united state and also discussed the question of organizing subsequent work conducive to providing security, and forming a joint security force during the process of elections.

At the end of the session, the brother ministers of interior in the two parts of the homeland left for Lahj Governorate where they undertook a study tour of police command in the governorates and landmarks of al-Hawtah and al-Haht towns in Lahj Governorate.

Brother Dr. 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat left Aden at noon today. He was seen off in (al-Shurayjah) area by brother Brig. Salih Munassar al-Siyayli.

In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY before his departure, brother Barakat declared that in the month of March this year there will be a quasi full [as heard] merger between the Ministries of Interior in the two parts, to make them one ministry. He explained that the Ministry of Interior differs from any ministry with regard to responsibility for the referendum and elections, and the building of a joint security force for this purpose.

He pointed out that great headway had been made in this sphere in order to attain, before the proclamation of unity, true unity, between the Ministries of Interior, all security organs, so as to achieve the stability and security of the single state and to enable all other institutions and ministries to construct [as heard] and merge.

Saudi Arabia

Western Media Treatment of Bus Incident Viewed

JN0902115490 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 7 Feb 90 p 7

["Press Ideas" column by Khalil al-Fazzi': "Despised-...Despised"]

[Text] The tourist bus incident has occupied the attention of the mass media. World news agencies highlighted the incident and transmitted the tiniest details about it. Some news agencies went back to their old files to show what they contain about the Arab-Israeli conflict. The incident was depicted as if those very "innocent" and very "peaceful" Israelis were the victims of an operation carried out by "Arab terrorists." The incident provided Israel with a golden opportunity to pin the charge of terrorism on the Arabs, especially since those "innocent" Jews were killed by Arabs.

Following the incident, the racist regime in Tel Aviv and the hireling Zionist mass media quickly forgot the continuous Zionist acts of terrorism carried out everywhere in the world by the Mosad or the enemies of our nation who have chosen to play Israel's terrorist role to liquidate prominent Arab figures. They have also forgotten Israel's violation of the sovereignty of Arab countries in carrying out terrorist plans and blatant acts of piracy that contravene all international norms and agreements, ignoring every international condemnation of terrorism.

Nobody approves of or recognizes terrorism. However, Israel, which is accustomed to terrorism, causes a great hubbub because some Jews have been killed, while scores of Palestinians are being killed by the Zionist forces—to complete world indifference and without the concentrated attention given to the tourist bus incident.

In an enemy radio commentary on the incident, the Israeli announcer asked the Israelis: Why do you go to Cairo where you are despised, despised?

The announcer, however, dares not say why they are despised. The usurper should expect nothing but hatred and anger, especially since the only weapons possessed by those whose rights have been usurped are hatred and anger. The hand that slaps cannot be extended for peace. In fact, that hand deserves to be cut off so it does not become accustomed to slapping and taking others' weakness for granted.

Israel, its supporters, and the mass media affiliated with it have a bizarre standard for terrorism. Israel practices killing and persecution, displaces Arabs from their homes, and disregards all international laws and norms. However, if any of its citizens are harmed, it makes a great uproar, as if its citizens are different from other human beings. This is an explicit lie and fabrication exercised by Israel unashamedly. At the same time, also unashamedly, Israel stirs up the world, sheds tears, and promises woe and vengeance when its citizens are harmed.

Terrorism is rejected in all its forms. However, Israel, which was established on the basis of terrorism, cannot realize this fact. Israel is the offspring of terrorism and will perish because of it. It is not amazing that this

incident has received all this concentrated media coverage while Israeli terrorist acts hardly draw any attention from the Western mass media. This is because the Western mass media are not fair where the Arabs are concerned.

India Urged To Resolve Kashmir Dispute

LD0802155290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2230 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Riyadh, 7 Feb (SPA)—The Foreign Ministry issued today, Wednesday [7 Feb], the following statement:

Proceeding from the principles of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its known stance towards Muslims' causes anywhere;

The government of the servant of the two holy places—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud—has followed with great concern and anxiety the developments in Kashmir leading to the current deterioration of the situation and the killing of a huge number of Muslims there.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which has friendly ties with the Republic of India and which is concerned about Muslim affairs, hopes the situation will not deteriorate further in the region and urges the friendly Republic of India to work toward finding a peaceful solution to the conflict within the framework of UN resolutions and the general principles of its charter.

Yemen Arab Republic

Libyan Conveys Al-Qadhdhafi Note, Departs

JN0802151690 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Brother Engineer Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the People's Bureau for External Liaison and International Cooperation, left Sanaa today after a visit to our country, during which he delivered a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September Revolution. He was seen off by Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Brother Muhammad 'Ali (?Na'ush), secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Sanaa; and a representative of the Presidential Protocol.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, Brother Al-Talhi said he expressed to the brother president leader at their meeting yesterday Libya's support and backing for the efforts he is making for the sake of attaining Yemeni unity. Al-Talhi noted that he is conveying a response from Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Concluding, Al-Talhi indicated that he held fruitful talks with the brother deputy prime minister and foreign minister on issues of concern to the Arab nation and the two countries.

Finance Ministers Sign Minutes of Meeting

JN0702215090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The general minutes of the meetings of the two joint committees of finance, money, banks, and credit were signed today at the Finance Ministry to unite the financial and monetary laws of the unity state. The meetings were held from 2 to 7 February.

The minutes included the results of the committee meetings dealing with laws, financial lists, taxes, cash issues, banks, customs, and duties department, including the approved organizational draft laws for the various departments and institutions under the Finance Ministry; the draft laws for financial and monetary issues of the unity state in implementing the resolutions issued in the recent joint meeting in Sanaa between the prime ministers of the two parts of the homeland.

The minutes were signed by the brothers Finance Minister 'Alawi al-Salamah and South Yemen Finance Minister Dr. Ahmad Nasir Danani. The minutes stipulated that the committee hold its next meeting in Aden on 24 February.

The finance, money, banks and credit committees had held their concluding sessions this morning under the brother finance ministers from both parts. They discussed the results of the subcommittee meetings.

Finance Minister Ahmad Nasir Dunani and members of the southern part of the homeland's delegation to the finance, money, banks, and credit committees left Sanaa for Aden at noon today. They were seen off by the brothers Finance Minister 'Alawi al-Salamah; Ahmad al-Iryani, head of the Central Organization for Auditing and Accounts; and other Finance Ministry officials.

Foreign Minister Meets Ethiopian, Libyan Leaders

JN0702212290 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Brother Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, today received Ashagre Yigletu, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and deputy prime minister for social affairs.

During the meeting, they reviewed friendly bilateral relations and the new developments in the regional arena. The meeting was attended by the Ethiopian ambassador in Sanaa.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister today also received brother Muhammad 'Ali Ya'ush, secretary of the Socialist Popular Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah People's Bureau in Sanaa. During the meeting, they discussed fraternal relations.

Saddam Reviews Arab Affairs With King Husayn

JN0802173690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal of Jordan arrived in Baghdad this afternoon on a visit to Iraq. His majesty was accorded an official reception, and President Saddam Husayn was at the head of those who received his majesty at the airport. Present at the airport were Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and the Jordanian charge d'affaires and the embassy staff. His majesty was accompanied on this visit by Royal Hashemite Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

President Saddam Husayn and His Majesty King Husayn held a round of talks on their close relations and reviewed the current Arab state of affairs and the requirements of joint Arab action under the current delicate pan-Arab and international circumstances. The talks also dealt with topics related to the Arab Cooperation Council and its forthcoming summit in Amman this month.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information. On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by Royal Hashemite Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

President Saddam Husayn gave a dinner banquet in honor of his brother His Majesty King Husayn. It was attended by the members of both sides to the talks. His Majesty King Husayn then left Baghdad this afternoon at the end of his short visit to Iraq.

His majesty was seen off by President Saddam Husayn. Also present at the airport were also Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

'Aziz Confers With Visiting Indian Official

JN0702185690 Baghdad INA in English 1607 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 7, INA—Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz received today Indian Foreign Undersecretary D. Singh currently visiting Iraq.

The minister received during the meeting a written message from Indian Foreign Minister Gujral in which he praised Iraq's peace initiative announced by President Saddam Husayn. The message also stressed Indian desire for strengthening bilateral relations in all fields.

Bilateral relations and means of consolidating them, the latest developments in the region and issues of joint interest were discussed during the meeting.

Foreign Minister 'Aziz Continues Tunisian Visit

Meets Tunisian Counterpart

JN0602155990 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, Feb 6, INA—Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz held a meeting here today with Mr. Abdelhamid Escheikh Tunisian foreign minister.

The meeting dealt with aspects of bilateral relations besides discussion of a number of current Arab and international issues.

Mr. 'Aziz had led the Iraqi delegation to meetings of the Ministerial Committee on following-up the uprising of the Palestinian people, that were concluded here last night.

Returns Home 6 Feb

JN0702130490 Baghdad INA in English 1119 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 7, INA—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz returned home last night after attending meetings of the Arab ministerial committee on supporting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab land.

Speaking to INA, Mr. 'Aziz said that the participation of Iraq in these meetings came in accordance with Iraq's stance in backing the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and the uprising in the Arab land.

He added that the Iraqi delegation expressed Iraq's solidarity with the Palestinian people and its just issues confirming his country's support to the uprising politically and morally.

Mr. 'Aziz said that the participants also discussed proposals of president Yasir 'Arafat of the state of Palestine on forming delegations to visit EC member states and of the Security Council as well as the Soviet Union to explain developments of the Palestinian issue and danger of the Soviet Jews emigration to the Arab occupied land.

It's to be mentioned that Iraq will participate in these delegations.

Hammadi Holds Talks in Paris on Debts, Weapons

JN2901192890 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 26 Jan 90 p 20

[Text] Paris—Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi deputy prime minister and Revolution Command Council member,

concluded his talks in the French capital without reaching an agreement on rescheduling the installments owed by Iraq this year.

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that during the negotiations, France insisted that Iraq repay the installments, which were rescheduled last September for the period May 1988-31 January 1990. The installments amount to 8 billion French francs, 1.7 billion francs of which have been repaid by Iraq.

It has been learned that the total debt owed by Iraq to France ranges from 24 to 27 billions francs, which represents one-quarter of Iraq's total debt.

AL-ITTIHAD has also learned that Hammadi was promised that France would fulfill the fourth contract on Mirage-2000 warplanes. Iraq has received half of the planes under the fourth contract, under which Iraq is to obtain 24 planes.

During the talks, Hammadi also raised the issue of a new package of Mirage-2000 fighters, and the possibility of Iraq assembling the plane's parts through establishing an assembly line for that purpose.

Jacques Mitterrand, the French president's brother and head of the French air and space industries, paid a special visit to Iraq recently and met with President Saddam Husayn.

AL-ITTIHAD also learned that Iraq is trying to persuade the French to manufacture ES3 missiles used by Mirage-2000-F. Iraq had concluded a contract under which it would obtain 500 missiles but has obtained only 250. Each missile costs 2.5 million French francs.

Editorial Says Jewish Immigration World Issue

JN0802163090 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Feb 90 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "A Violation of Human Rights"]

[Text] No doubt one of the gravest issues currently facing the Arab nation is the immigration of Soviet Jews and others from Eastern Europe to occupied Palestine. This immigration, which is taking place at an intensive and accelerating pace, not only threatens the Palestine issue and the Palestinian Arab people's just and legitimate struggle to establish their independent state on their land, but also threatens pan-Arab security and the entire Arab order.

This immigration will enhance the Zionist entity's rigidity and intransigence and its ability to maintain the policy of aggression and expansion at the expense of the Arab nation and its inalienable historical rights—a policy which has been followed by this usurpation entity since its establishment in 1948. However, it is a verified and confirmed fact that the United States, which stands alongside the Zionist entity and supplies it with all sorts of military and financial support, pressures—or rather, forces—the Soviet emigrants to head for the occupied Arab territory, bears a parallel responsibility for this crime against the Arab nation and mankind at large.

This immigration, which they list as a human rights issue, constitutes a flagrant violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people. What rights are those that approve the usurpation of a land from its rightful owners and their expulsion therefrom to hand it over to others who have no connection with it whatsoever? What rights are those that take place at the expense of the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable and legitimate rights in their homeland? This immigration contravenes not only the most basic human rights but also the principles of international law and all international norms and charters.

Apart from the serious and real dangers posed by this immigration to security and peace in this region and the world at large—given that it will enhance the capability of the fanatics in the Zionist entity and boost their expansionist and aggressive inclinations instead of helping the search for peace, as President Saddam Husayn says—this immigration coincides with the valiant intifadah of the Palestinian Arab people which has been going on for more than two years despite all the Zionist means of persecution. It is perfectly clear that the Zionists and their American allies are betting on this immigration to break and terminate the intifadah. Hence, one of the urgent pan-Arab tasks to respond to this immigration should be the extension of further official and popular Arab support to the heroic intifadah to enable it to play its role in confronting and foiling the scheme of immigration.

In view of this grave challenge posed by this immigration, as well as other challenges currently confronting the Arab nation, the Arab nation is called upon to launch a serious and effective action and to shoulder its responsibility in confronting this new colonialist wave, as well as all the challenges produced by the profound changes that have swept over the international order. Since all urgent and current Arab issues are interrelated, therefore, as the inspired leader Saddam Husayn said: "If any Arab summit is convened anytime and anywhere, discussions should not be confined to one subject, since all issues are related to what is going on in the world. Therefore, discussions should deal with all pan-Arab issues and international developments in general. However, it is natural that there should be a list of priorities."

The immigration of Soviet Jews and others from Eastern Europe to Palestine is not strictly a Palestinian or Arab issue, but should be dealt with as a human issue which interests the entire world. Hence, we believe that the international community and its bodies and organizations are called upon to bear their responsibilities toward halting this disastrous immigration and supporting the principles of truth and justice and the international law. Talking about human rights as an issue concerning the right of the Soviet Jews to immigrate to the occupied

Arab territories is a true scandal and a blatant violation of human rights. Moreover, it is a disgrace for the entire international community.

Geneva Delegate Denounces Israel, South Africa

JN0702191690 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Geneva, Feb 7, INA—The Iraqi delegation to meetings of the Human Rights Committee warned against perils of the continuity of the economic and military support to South Africa regime, confirming that this support was a cause beyond South Africa regime's violation of principles of human rights.

In a speech before the committee, the Iraqi delegate said that this regime was still continuing its intransigence and illegitimate domination because of continuity of the military and economic support to this regime by several world states including the Zionist entity.

The Iraqi delegate clarified that the military collaboration between South Africa and Zionist entity had exceeded reasonable limits and reached the nuclear armament field with a view to consolidating capabilities of both regimes at domestic and foreign levels.

The delegate said that the last racial regime would be the Zionist entity that has been perpetrating the subversion and terrorism against the Palestinian people because of nationality and religion.

Message to UN on Iran's Cease-Fire Violations

JN0802131290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Iraq has urged the UN General Secretariat to do its utmost to put an end to Iran's continuing and serious cease-fire violations. This came in a message sent by Iraq's permanent representative to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and distributed at the United Nations today as a Security Council document. The message says: The continuing Iranian cease-fire violations prove beyond any doubt Iran's non-respect for or abidance by the cease-fire agreement. The message stresses that the serious violations reaffirm Iran's lack of desire for comprehensive and lasting peace with Iraq.

The message points out that the Iranian side is going far in its flooding operations, which have begun to threaten the security of Iraqi military units. The message says that over a period of three months, between 15 October 1989 and 14 January 1990, the average water level increased by 67 percent, and the flooded area is gradually and continually increasing. In paragraph B/14 of his report to the Security Council last year, the UN secretary general asserted that the flooding operation is one of the most serious Iranian violations of the cease-fire agreement.

The message explains that despite the intervention of the UN secretary general to stop this grave cease-fire violation, Iran, as usual, evaded abidance by a halt to the operation. The message adds that the Iranian side is going far in its cease-fire violations by increasing the water level and flooding new areas that have not previously been flooded.

Ramadan Calls 1990 Year of New Constitution

JN0302131290 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 3, INA—Iraqi Revolution Command Council Member and First Deputy Premier Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that Iraq's belief in democracy as a steady approach is authentic being realized at stages linked to stability of the revolution and awareness of Iraqis in this experience. [sentence as received]

In statements published in local magazine WA'YI AL-'UMMAL today, Mr Ramadan stressed that features of the current period constituted a new addition to the democratic approach, especially after forming ad hoc committees on the constitution, parties and press regulations.

The Iraqi official declared that 1990 would be the year of the new constitution that would be subject to general referendum by Iraqi people.

The Iraqi first deputy premier affirmed that Iraq was serious in taking further measures to reconsider structure of the state, define duties of the institutions, erase bureaucracy and routine and set an inflation-free economy.

He confirmed that forthcoming economic policies would undergo extra practical action to step up production in agriculture, industry, services and tourism and to assign a considerable role to these sectors which would be away from the state responsibility, Mr Ramadan said.

The Iraqi senior official announced that the next period would also focus on balancing between production and wages as well as between effort and yield with a view to realizing proper living standard for the Iraqi citizen.

He emphasised that inflation and high prices would not prolong as improvement would be observed as from this year.

Concerning measures taken for housing and construction, Mr Ramadan confirmed that the state had started providing the constructional materials and would set to building new towns.

He pointed out that new factories for producing alternates for marble would be set up by the state with the participation of citizens and cooperative societies to the aim of constructing additional ready-made houses.

Oil Minister Views Increased Gas Exports

JN0802133890 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 8, INA—Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al Rahim has announced that Iraq would embark on exporting gas to the world states via its ports at extra capacity of four million tonnes as from June 1 next.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH daily published today, the minister said that seven oil fields were dug and light oil was discovered in the said fields with great quantities for export.

The minister referred to the inauguration of the third gas project which constitutes an important part of the south gas project for benefiting from all crude oil gases which reach 100 million cubic foot daily.

BAGHDAD OBSERVER Cited on Oil Projects

JN3001120490 Baghdad INA in English 1220 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 30, INA—The next couple of years will witness the completion of a number of strategic oil projects in Iraq including the west al-Qurnah oil field development, the second national strategic pipeline and others, a source at the Oil Projects Company said.

The other important oil projects under construction include the central oil refinery and the petrochemicals project No. 2.

THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER quoted a company source as stating that the projects are all carried out by the company, which is responsible for drawing basic designs, equipment and machinery procurement, construction of the projects' sites as well as the experimental and full operation of the projects.

The source said that the company has been able to reach this level of efficiency by developing its staffers' skill in using advanced working and management systems and by forming specialised teams to speed up work.

Iraq is one of the leading countries in the world in oil reserve and will remain for decades to come a major supplier of energy in the world.

The Iraqi oil reserve as declared by the Ministry of Oil is more than 100 billion barrels. These figures are steadily expected to increase due to the new finds and explorations. Iraq is the second country after Saudi Arabia in terms of oil reserves. Besides, Iraq is one of the top ten countries in the world in terms of proven gas reserve.

Iraq has the capability of producing 4.5 million barrels a day and yet it could be further increased.

It also has a great flexibility in exporting its oil since it has many export outlets at the Arab Gulf, Red Sea and Mediterranean ports which collectively have the capacity to handle five million barrels per day. This capacity is expected to rise to six millions during 1990 when the oil terminals at the Arab Gulf are fully operational.

However, Iraq is committed its production ceiling as stated by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in late 1989, i.e, 3.140 million barrels a day.

The company source noted that Iraq is carrying out an extensive programme to develop gas and oil fields.

The projects under development include the first stage of the east of Baghdad gas and oil field.

The project which is now under experimental operation yields 20,000 barrels of oil per day from al-Rashidiyah field, east of Baghdad. The field also produces 14 million cubic feet of associated gas.

The Ministry of Oil is also developing al-Zubayr oil field in al-Basrah province. This includes expanding and updating four field stations and building a new degassing station. The objective is to increase production capacity by another 160,000 barrels a day.

In al-Ta'mim province, Saddam oil field is being extensively developed with the aim of reaching a daily oil production capacity of 45,000 barrels and 300 million cubic feet of gas per day.

Light Industry Firm To Increase Production

JN0402121490 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 4, INA—The Light Industries Company is planning to increase the capacity of certain products to 100 per cent over figures of 1989.

Director of the firm told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER that 150,000 freezers in various sizes will be produced this year compared to 60,531 last year.

The firm, which is a mixed sector, is also to produce 150,000 refrigerators this year while in 1989 it manufactured 72,229.

According to the plan, some 200,000 gas cookers will be manufactured, the firm made 14,780 last year.

The plan also includes the production of 140,000 oil heaters. Last year's output was 268,000.

The director said the value of last year's products was 31,870,000. [currency not specified]

According to this year's plan, the firm intends to manufacture most parts of its products instead of importing them. He said this would be achieved in cooperation with the military industry of industry companies and the private sector. So far, many metal and plastic as well as electric components have been manufactured by the Ministry's various departments.

Meanwhile, The Light Industries Company has implemented new projects to produce spare parts for refrigerators and freezers. Other production lines were launched for the production of metal sheets and other parts of refrigerators and freezers.

The firm director said 80 per cent of last year's products was sold by state-owned Supermarkets Company. While the remaining 20 per cent went to the firm's agents and cooperatives in Baghdad and other provinces.

Work Rules Equate Arab Nationals With Iraqis

JN3101170890 Baghdad INA in English 1515 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 31, INA—The Revolution Command Council today decided to allow Arab nationals residing in Iraq to practice their profession in accordance with conditions, rights and provisions enforced on the Iraqis.

This was contained in a decision issued by the council here today.

UNIIMOG Commander Arrives for Visit 7 Feb

JN0702190190 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 7, INA—Major General Slavko Jovic, commander of United Nations Iraq-Iran Military Observers Group (UNIIMOG) arrived here today on a visit to Iraq.

Major General Jovic's visit comes within the framework of his shuttles between Iraq and Iran to observe the implementation of ceasefire between Iraq and Iran.

Major General Jovic was received by his assistant and the representative of the United Nations and many officers in Coordination Committee in Iraq.

Omani Foreign Minister Leaves Baghdad 5 Feb

JN0602055890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation left Baghdad today following a three-day visit to Iraq. [passage omitted]

Yugoslav Minister Here for Joint Meetings

JN3101073090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2025 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jan (INA)—Bozo Marendic, Yugoslav minister of development and planning, arrived in Baghdad today at the head of a delegation to attend the meetings of the 14th session of the Iraqi-Yugoslav joint committee due to begin tomorrow [31 Jan].

In a statement to INA, the Yugoslav minister said that the meetings will discuss ways to promote economic, technical, and scientific cooperation between the two countries. He added that he and Muhammad Mahdi Salih, trade minister and head of the Iraqi side of the committee, will sign a protocol for cooperation between the two sides in all fields.

Transport Minister Returns From India Visit

JN0502141590 Baghdad INA in English 1255 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 5, INA—Mr Muhammad Hamzah, Iraqi minister of transport and communications, today returned here ending a three-day official visit to India.

During the visit, Mr Hamzah conveyed a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn to Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Singh on occasion of his assumption of the premiership post.

The message confirmed Iraq's resolve to carry on relations with India and readiness to promote them in service of the construction and progress process in the two countries.

In a statement to INA, Mr Hamzah said that his talks with Indian officials reflected sincere desire to promote the Indo-Iraqi relations and readiness to expand them.

He added that the Indian prime minister expressed appreciation to the recent Iraqi peace initiative reflecting wisdom of President Saddam Husayn's leadership and Iraq's firm and sincere desire to establish peace in the region.

He further said that the Indian premier also expressed India's readiness to promote relations with Iraq in all fields.

The Iraqi minister of transport had discussed during the visit and meetings with the Indian ministers of foreign affairs, oil and trade and railways, several issues related to expanding and cementing spheres of bilateral cooperation.

Several technical committees branched from the meetings to follow up development of bilateral relations and prospects of benefiting from the Indian expertise in transport and communications fields.

'Sources' Report 'Secret' Talks With Syria

TA0902064390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 9 Feb 90 pp 1, 5

[By London correspondent Yohanan Lahav]

[Text] Israel and Syria conducted a secret meeting in which they discussed the possibility of reaching a peace agreement between the two countries, Western intelligence sources in London said.

The source for the information, they said, is the same Israeli source who first disclosed the conversation between 'Ezer Weizman and the PLO.

The meeting occurred three or four months ago, and the Syrian side was represented by figures close to the top military command. The identity of the Israelis who participated in the meeting is unknown, but it is said they were not ministers, Army officers, or serving diplomats.

The real outcome of the meeting, according to these sources, was establishment of an indirect (and unofficial) channel of communication between the two countries.

The Syrians during the meeting expressed for the first time readiness to limit their discussion with Israel to the future of the Golan Heights, while leaving a solution of the other problems for discussion in different bodies.

They made peace with Israel in the past conditional on solutions to all problems, including East Jerusalem.

The sources also said Syria might make do with an Israeli withdrawal from part of the Golan Heights, not all the territory it occupied in 1967.

The intelligence experts in London stressed Al-Asad's real difficulties considering the developments last year in the USSR, which led him to consider the need to reconcile with Israel.

They also point out, however, it is not inconceivable the report, which comes from an Israeli source, is in fact Israeli disinformation aimed at damaging the Syrian president's standing with his allies in the extremist camp.

Even if it is true, and Al-Asad is serious about his readiness for peace, the Israeli prime minister's willingness to pay the territorial price needed to achieve peace with Syria remains to be seen.

Arab Leaders Urged to 'Uproot Terrorism'

JN0802170890 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 8 Feb 90

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners: The terrorist crime that targeted Israeli tourists on the Ismailia-Cairo road on Sunday—the crime condemned and denounced by all civilized individuals and all civilized nations—refutes and disproves the premise that terrorism is a direct result of failure to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, or that terrorism will remain a fact of life as long as the Middle East and the Palestine question remain unresolved.

This horrendous crime, on the contrary, confirms the conviction that one of the main reasons behind continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the failure to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East is the existence of terrorism and the cultivation and enhancement of terrorism by regimes and countries that use it to serve their own selfish purposes and foreign policies—regimes known to be hostile toward any form of peace and coexistence with Israel.

These regimes and countries also are well known for their entrenched and irredeemable desire to exterminate Israel.

We would not be blowing things out of proportion if we said Palestinian and Arab terrorism has continued to constitute an almost insurmountable obstacle before a comprehensive peace between the Arab states and Israel.

Terrorists of all ideological lines and colors who uphold various types of highfalutin liberation slogans have, along with their masters—terrorist organization leaders and terrorist countries' leaders—consistently proven themselves enemies of peace. They also have shown their original, true objective is to strike at peace and its opportunities by using the most barbarous and inhuman methods.

The champions of Arab terrorism and its faction leaders, in other words, are using terrorism not only to torpedo peace and its opportunities—no, they also are using terrorism eventually to conquer Israel. The Arab terrorism pioneers and faction leaders hence will not renounce their terrorism. Terrorism will remain a fact of life, even if Israel subscribes to establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and even if Israel endorses all the Arab demands and conditions—both the realistic and impossible ones—to achieve a comprehensive peace. Terrorism will remain a fact of life even if Israel concedes 90 percent of its territory.

One more salient piece of evidence proving Palestinian and Arab terrorism has continued as an insurmountable obstacle before a comprehensive peace is the fact terrorist operations always are stepped up whenever there are serious moves toward peace.

This explains the timing of the Ismailia-Cairo road crime, since this was perpetrated during news reports about the possibility of conducting a tripartite meeting between the foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel and the U.S. secretary of state this month to lay groundwork for launching an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

The past also has shown all moderate Arab leaders or figures who took steps toward attaining understanding and peace, or even made statements stressing the its inevitability, in no time are harmed at the hands of Arab terrorism.

They thus have fallen prey to treachery. The late Egyptian President Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat and the late Dr. 'Isam al-Sartawi, Zafir al-Masri, and King 'Abdallah are some of the victims of Arab terrorism. The list of these victims is long.

The wave of terrorist assassinations targeting Jordanian diplomats in Madrid, Bucharest, and Ankara still is vivid. These assassinations occurred when King Husayn was preoccupied with attempts to prepare for conducting joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiations with Israel.

The mentioned objective and historical facts, in a nutshell, refute the premise continuation of terrorism is caused by failure to achieve peace and solve the Palestine question. These facts moreover confirm terrorism has continued as one of the main, if not prime, reasons for the failure to resolve the Palestine question and attain a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

It is true that one would be unfair and lacking in intellectual integrity if one were to make generalizations about terrorism and brand all Arabs or Palestinians as terrorists, since the overwhelming majority of Palestinians and Arabs yearn to live in security and peace.

The unmistakably clear conclusion all Arab officials must draw, however, is that issuing statements condemning and denouncing terrorism never can be sufficient. Expressing anger and rage over what terrorism does is no use. To continue to make statements that terrorism is tarnishing the Arabs' image among the civilized community of nations is useless.

All Arab rulers and officials eager to safeguard the Arabs' reputation and image and sincerely seek to attain peace—so they can direct all efforts to serve the real, vital interests of their own peoples and create a better future for Arab individuals—are urgently called upon to make concerted, determined efforts to remove the insurmountable obstacle of terrorism blocking peace—the obstacle within their ranks. They also are urged to join the international endeavors seeking to liquidate and uproot terrorism by using all preventive, effective means.

Sharon Says Shamir Consent on Deportees 'Given'

TA0802193290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon says he believes the Israeli Government has already given its consent to the inclusion of deported Palestinians in the delegation that would hold peace talks with Israel. Addressing the Press Club in Tel Aviv, Sharon said Israel has purposely put off the three-way foreign ministers meeting until after the Likud Central Committee meets, so that committee members will not realize that in fact the prime minister has agreed to include deportees. Le'a Zinder reports:

[Begin recording] [Zinder] Addressing the Press Club at Tel Aviv's Journalists House this evening, Ari'el Sharon said that Israel's government has apparently already given its consent to include deportees in a Palestinian delegation. In an interview following his address, I asked Sharon how he had gained this information:

[Sharon] It is not a matter of information. I have the feeling that about those who were deported there is an Israeli consent that they will be included. As to the inhabitants of East Jerusalem, I don't think that a Jerusalem consent has been said or proposed, but I have not seen any clear rejection.

[Zinder] So this means there cannot be a compromise then at next Monday's Central Committee meeting, because you are saying that Mr. Shamir has in fact already rejected the constraints imposed on him at the last Central Committee meeting.

[Sharon] I believe that the effort to postpone the meetings of the three ministers of foreign affairs is the result of that consent that exists now, and that in order that members of the Central Committee that will assemble will not know this before they will be asked to vote. There is no question of compromise. What kind of compromise? Can one make any compromise when it comes to Jewish lives? Can one have any compromise when it comes to the issue of Jerusalem? It is not a matter of compromise.

[Zinder] Sharon did say that if Prime Minister Shamir included certain points in his own resolution—the points being an end to the intifadah, no Palestinian deportees, and no East Jerusalem residents in the delegation, as well as the problems of the development towns—then Sharon would agree to have only one resolution presented to the Central Committee meeting. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 8 February carries a report on Sharon's news conference by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel. Referring to reports that the tripartite foreign ministers meeting depends on the results of the Likud Central Committee convention, Sharon says: "It is inconceivable that the U.S. Government should interfere, or should want to interfere, in internal decisions of a friendly country." Correspondent Deqel adds: "When asked about giving a vote of confidence in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Sharon said: The question is not one of placing confidence in someone, but in something. There could be full unity in the Likud and in the Central Committee if we had a clear idea of what policy should be upheld now and in the future."

[Continuing, Deqel says: "Another question posed to the minister was: Since you keep saying this, how do you propose to eradicate terror in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza? What are the measures you propose to take? Sharon's answer was: Were I given the chance to be defense minister for one year, I hereby announce I would bring violence and terror to an end; not by using harsher methods, but by using different methods. It is inconceivable this fiasco should go on for more than two years with no one held accountable for it."

[At 1830 GMT, Tel Aviv IDF Radio adds: "Sharon said two deportees were behind the murderous attack on the bus in Egypt: One was a member of Ahmad Jibril's organization, and the other was an accomplice in the murder of the boy Aharon Gross in Hebron a few years ago. Sharon stressed that the real murderers are not these two men, but those who initiated the plan and sent the murderers."]

More on Sharon; Ministers Issue Resolutions

TA0802202890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Referring during his news conference to the upcoming Likud Central Committee convention, Minister Ari'el Sharon said he does not predict a split in the party.

He noted if his position is rejected, he will not quit, but will try to fight for his just cause. Minister Sharon denied he made an agreement with David Levi or any other minister on distribution of portfolios in a future government.

As for press reports about the Singapore Government's announcement it does not want him to visit their country, Sharon said the fact such a secret cable sent to the Foreign Ministry immediately found its way to the media should be cause for surprise. The same happened before his visits to the East European countries, which he ultimately visited anyway, Sharon said, adding he has a standing invitation to visit Soviet Georgia.

The constraints ministers meanwhile have published the draft resolutions they will put to a vote at the Likud Central Committee convention. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports they stressed these resolutions do not contradict the Central Committee's confidence in the prime minister.

The resolutions address the elimination of terror and not including in the Palestinian delegation people who are not inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, Arabs of East Jerusalem, and people who participated in terroristic acts.

Shamir May 'Circumvent' East Jerusalem 'Obstacle'

TA0902113390 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 9 Feb 90 p A2

[By Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Ilan Bakhar, and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] The Likud leadership is united in its opposition to including Faysal al-Husayni in the Palestinian delegation to negotiations in Cairo.

Political sources in the Alignment reacted with satisfaction to the moderation characterizing the proposed Palestinian representation, and said they have a consensus on principles guiding selection of candidates.

The Prime Minister's Office responded last night to the intent to include Faysal al-Husayni by saying he is unacceptable, not only because he is an East Jerusalem resident, but also because he is one of the leaders of the intifadah. A strange coalition might be formed on this point between Shamir and 'Arafat, who fears Al-Husayni's independent status in the territories.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office also stressed Shamir opposes incorporation of representatives from East Jerusalem, while in the Alignment, various sources said Rabin and Arens agreed on inclusion of deportees on the condition they first return to the region, and that they did not participate in terrorist activities in the past.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is considering proposing at the next Inner Cabinet meeting that "categories of association" regarding place of residence and political identification not be noted alongside the names of the members of the Palestinian delegation. The prime minister recently discussed the subject with a number of Likud ministers, and it was decided this is the only way to continue the political process and circumvent the obstacle of East Jerusalem.

The Prime Minister's Office is keeping this secret and even denies it. Political sources point out the denials are due to the prime minister's concern that if this were known, it would make it more difficult for Shamir to explain his position at the Likud Central Committee meeting. [passage omitted]

Egypt Proposes 16 Feb for Tripartite Meeting

TA0902094790 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 9 Feb 90 p 1

[By Daniyel Ben-Simon]

[Text] It was learned from political sources in Jerusalem last night that the meeting between the U.S., Israeli, and Egyptian foreign ministers may be next Friday in Washington.

Israel's UN Ambassador Moshe Arad reported yesterday to these sources Egypt has proposed 16 February as the preferred date for the meeting. Arens' meeting with Baker also will be on that date and is supposed to be an integral part of the trilateral meeting.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on page A1, in a report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar, says "the foreign minister's office in the last few days has denied reports about an expected meeting with Baker prior to the that between the three foreign ministers, although the foreign minister will stop in the United States next week on his way to Mexico."]

The Inner Cabinet most likely will convene Wednesday to work out a final Israeli position, prior to the foreign ministers meeting in Washington.

The Alignment ministers' position is known, and as recently published, the Egyptian and Alignment positions fully agree.

The Likud's stand probably will be decided according to developments in its Central Committee. Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres this week called on Foreign Minister Arens not to participate in a trilateral meeting before a final decision is made by the Inner Cabinet.

Egypt so far has agreed to conduct the meeting, and even announced concessions the PLO has made so it can begin as soon as possible.

Israel earlier had hinted to the United States it is calling for "a balance" between the number of meetings Baker will conduct with Arens and those with the Egyptian foreign minister. 'Abd-al-Majid for now is scheduled to conduct one more meeting than his Israeli counterpart, and Israel has asked it be canceled.

'Abd-al-Majid earlier this week said postponement of the tripartite meeting does not derive from the attack on the tourist bus in Cairo, but from Israel's demand to continue preparatory meetings with the Americans.

Ministry Orders Anti-PLO Campaign in U.S.

TA0802143690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 90 p A2

[By political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has instructed the Israeli Embassy in Washington to enlist Congress, the media, and the Jewish community to pressure the administration to stop its dialogue with the PLO.

In a cable sent following the appeal to the U.S. ambassador in Tel Aviv, the embassy in Washington was requested to furnish Congress, the media, and Jewish organizations with current information on the PLO's activities.

The appeal to the embassy came in anticipation of the State Department presentation of a periodic report to Congress on following up violations of the PLO commitment made in December 1988 in Geneva. The report is required according to an amendment by Representative Lieberman.

The cable to the embassy states the requested action is meant to stir up maximum reaction to this in the media and among the Jews.

Divorcing 'Arafat From Current Terrorism 'Naive'

TA0802121290 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "On Condemning Terrorism"]

[Text] Three days before this week's attack on the tourist bus near Cairo, President Bush signed into law legislation which requires the State Department to report on the PLO's "readiness to live in peace with Israel" and "to renounce terrorism."

"Readiness to live in peace" may be too abstract a concept, for the State Department seems to have trouble defining it. To most Israelis, however, the provisions in the PLO Covenant calling for Israel's destruction, the PLO demand to expel Israel from the UN, and its all-out campaign against allowing Jews to find a haven in Israel seem a little incompatible with such readiness. The State Department is also remarkably flexible on "renouncing terrorism." The term terrorism is, after all, imprecise. (Secretary Shultz used to say, "terrorism is like pornography. I cannot define it, but I know it when I see it.") But even the most acrobatic juggler with semantics will agree that throwing a hand-grenade into a bus is a terrorist act. Not just near Cairo, but near 'Afula, where such an attack was one of 13 terrorist strikes within the Green Line perpetrated by Fatah, 'Arafat's own PLO faction, since his renunciation of terrorism in December 1988.

These attacks, as well as 15 PLO attempts (including two by Fatah) to infiltrate across the border, and 125 murders of "collaborators" on directives of the PLO "Unified Command," have been meticulously documented by the prime minister's adviser on terrorism.

The knack for denouncing terrorist acts is not too difficult to acquire. As far back as the early Seventies, 'Arafat denied knowing of the existence of the Black September organization, which killed the Israeli athletes in Munich. Later he was found to have been its operational chief, and to have personally given the order to execute the American and Belgian diplomats taken hostage by Black September in Khartoum. After the Achille Lauro incident, 'Arafat denied knowing Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], one of his closest lieutenants, who masterminded the operation. In the Algiers conference, Abu-al-'Abbas sat next to him.

That 'Arafat did not personally denounce the latest outrage in Egypt is perhaps a sign of integrity: the action was almost identical to many operations he had himself ordered in the past. It is still not clear whether the faction of the Islamic Jihad tied to 'Arafat's Fatah through the "77 Committee" or a rival organization was responsible for the attack. But to divorce 'Arafat from current terrorist activities is, to put it charitably, naive.

Lt. General Ion Pacepa of the Romanian secret police, the highest ranking communist spy chief to defect to the West, gained great credibility recently when his description of Ceausescu's crimes was verified. He relates a conversation in which Ceausescu tried to convince 'Arafat in 1978 that while "a war of terror is your only realistic weapon," it would be useful for 'Arafat to pretend "over and over" to break with terrorism. Such repetition would work like cocaine, until "a snort of the pacific 'Arafat day after day...would make the West addicted to you and your PLO." It took 'Arafat some time, but he finally heeded the advice.

Those who advocate negotiating with 'Arafat undoubtedly sincerely believe that it is the only way to peace. Many, in fact, believed this even before he pronounced

the words which made him acceptable to the U.S. Administration. But to base such advocacy on an alleged change in him and in the PLO is an exercise in self-delusion.

Moda'i Warns Shamir Against 'Our Line of Fire'

TA0902063290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Feb 90

[By party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[Text] If there was anyone who believed there were signs the Likud controversies were dying out, and if anyone had hoped a common denominator would be found, it became obvious at the meeting of the constraints ministers' supporters last night that this is hopeless.

The following is what Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i chose to say last night in his attack against Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir:

[Begin Moda'i recording] I do not want to speak disrespectfully, but this situation makes me think of a short man interfering in an argument—a fistfight perhaps—between giant basketball players, and says: Hey, you guys, if you don't shove off at once, I'll make you move!

Has anyone expressed even the slightest hint of a lack of confidence in the prime minister? Has anyone said he doubts the party chairman's authority? He butts in, on a personal level, to a substantive, poignant, and perhaps—as far as the future of the State of Israel is concerned—fatal debate, and declares: Here I am! [end recording]

Moda'i continues: The prime minister speaks of great achievements, but last year we had one failure after another. First, all ties with the religious and right-wing parties were severed. Second, he gave Peres and his poodle the till, the keys, and the handgun for safekeeping. Moda'i continues:

[Begin Moda'i recording] Shamir is the chairman of our movement. We would not wish in any way to harm him. But if he happens to walk into our line of fire, it will not be we who have killed him; he will have committed suicide. [applause] [end recording]

Shamir's close aides chose to issue a low-key reaction: Moda'i forced this style on his former party in the past, and now he is trying to introduce the same street style in this big party, but he will not succeed. The aides were pleased, however, with their impression that last night's constraints meeting was a failure. The Central Committee meeting is set for next Monday.

CPSU Reforms Could Stem Jewish Emigration

TA0802140390 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Feb 90 p 3

[Commentary by Erol Guiney: "Good for the Jews"]

[Text] The USSR Supreme Soviet's historic vote, which ended the exclusive role of the party, is an event of supreme international importance.

It also is a very important vote for the Jewish community and for Israel.

If Gorbachev's proposals are approved by all the groups that will organize and try to become parties—and it seems this will be the case—these parties will come forward according to the constitution and social order. Groups which declare their hostility to this or that group will not be able to become a party.

According to a secret report recently given to Gorbachev, conservative party elements furthermore will form an alliance with nationalist extremists and try to set up a regime with fascist characteristics so they will not to lose their positions of power and rights.

That is the nightmare the Jewish community and the Soviet intelligentsia feared, but now with Gorbachev's victory in the Supreme Soviet, the threat appears to have diminished.

The latest developments will not stem the tide of Jewish emigration, since the fear of anarchy in the USSR still exists. It is possible, nevertheless, the rate of emigration will slow.

CSSR Vice Prime Minister Arrives on Visit

TA0802190590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Czechoslovak Vice Prime Minister (Josef Romatka) landed at Ben-Gurion Airport a few minutes ago and was greeted by Minister Zvulun Hammer.

He arrived here heading a five-man delegation of senior Czechoslovak Government officials. The Czechoslovak vice prime minister is here on an official five-day visit, during which he will confer with the prime minister, the vice prime minister, and other senior ministers.

He will discuss with officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs bilateral issues pertaining to the 6,000-strong Jewish community in Prague and tourism by Christian pilgrims from Czechoslovakia. He also will tour the holy sites.

East German Ties Hinge on 'Satisfactory' Answers

TA0802133690 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Feb 90 p 7

[By Yosi Werther]

[Excerpt] "The initial responses we thus far have obtained from the East Germans to the questions we raised indicate a very serious attitude on their part," said Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at the Knesset yesterday during a debate on the unification of Germany.

The issue was raised by Knesset Members Shevah Weiss (Alignment) and Shmu'el Halpert (Agudat Yisra'el).

According to Netanyahu, in their recent contacts Israel raised the following points with the GDR:

—Does the GDR acknowledge its responsibility for the holocaust?

—What steps does it intend to take and how will its acknowledgement of its role be manifested vis-a-vis Israel?

—What is the GDR's attitude toward Arab and PLO terrorism?

Netanyahu promised the contacts between the two countries would continue, but relations will be established only after Israel receives satisfactory answers to all the questions. Netanyahu expressed the hope the reunification of Germany will not result in the "reawakening of the murderous form of German nationalism." [passage omitted]

'Cautious' Reaction to GDR 'Blame' for Holocaust

TA0902060590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The World Jewish Congress says East Germany has accepted a share of the blame for the Nazi Holocaust. The organization says it has received a letter from East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow, in which he says East Germany will provide what is referred to as material support to the Jewish victims who suffered under Nazi oppression. [passage omitted]

In Israel, officials are being cautious in the wake of the Modrow statement. Mikha'el Shilo is the adviser on diaspora affairs in the Foreign Ministry who attended last week's talks between Israel and East Germany in Copenhagen.

[Begin recording] [Shilo] We have—if you permit the expression—to chew a little bit on the wording of Modrow's declaration, but obviously it is a beginning. I don't think that we have ever heard before this kind of a declaration from East Germany. You do know that until now they said that since they were a republic of workers and peasants, and since their leadership is a communist leadership, they are on the suffering side and not on the side of those who caused the suffering, and therefore, they do not see that they had any responsibility at all, which was of course, a very cynical approach which was totally unacceptable to Jews and to Israel. This was something we couldn't live with.

[Unidentified correspondent] What do you see as the next step?

[Shilo] I will not go deep into details, but I'll just say this—No. 1: A verbal declaration is just a beginning. A verbal declaration should be backed up by some tangible deeds in terms of changes in education and school curriculum, maybe in legislation, and maybe some other things. [end recording]

Paper Urges Immediate, Forceful Reply to Sununu

TA0802133490 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Feb 90 p A12

[Editorial: "Sununu Talking for Bush"]

[Text] White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, in remarks to Jewish forums in Washington, created several grave precedents.

This is one of the rare times the White House chief of staff has become involved in foreign policy, a field Secretary of State James Baker aggressively guards from known imperialist tendencies inside the White House.

Sununu drew a connection between settling new immigrants beyond the Green Line, the political process, settlements, and U.S. aid—its very existence as well as its size—and granting guarantees for loans Israel wants to use for absorbing the immigrants.

Since his appointment to the White House and due to his Lebanese origins, Sununu has tried to show he is not anti-Israeli or anti-Jewish. He has been very careful, and if this time he did express blunt remarks, it is a sign he did so with malice aforethought and with the blessing of his boss.

Sununu said according to U.S. policy, not only its funds must not be invested in the territories, but also Israeli funds freed as a result of U.S. aid. That toughens U.S. demands: It contains a demand to control not only funds the United States hands out (which is legitimate), but also all of the State of Israel's money.

The link Sununu created between all the elements—immigration, settlements, investments beyond the Green Line, the political process, and U.S. funds—is grave and much more threatening than cuts in aid to Israel and other countries to redirect them to East Europe and Latin America, as Senator Dole proposed.

It would be better for the Government of Israel to respond immediately and forcefully to Sununu's proposals: to continue its promise not to use U.S. funds beyond the Green Line. But on the other hand, it must act immediately to undo the worrying links and new conditions Sununu is trying to introduce.

Iraqi Missile Effort Said Aimed at Israel

TA0802123790 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Feb 90 p A2

[By Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] "The successful development and launch of the three-stage ballistic missile in Iraq has far-reaching strategic ramifications. Recent missile technology developments in Iraq must be taken very seriously. Israel's problem is not with the missile Iraq claims it will launch into space, but with the presence of long-range ballistic missiles in Iraqi hands." This was the security sources' reaction to the report Iraq has built a satellite it soon plans to launch.

The security elements contend Israel should not ignore Iraq's growing capability to strike at the its hinterland. They claim the chief Iraqi effort in developing ballistic missiles not only is aimed eastward, against Iran, but also against those perceived in Baghdad as serious enemies—the Israelis. It would be wrong to underestimate Iraqi announcements on successes in the development of missiles, as Western experts before have done. The Iraqi military industries have developed very rapidly, and their successes were largely surprising.

As far as known, the ballistic missile Iraq successfully launched two months ago is based on the Soviet surface-to-surface Scud B missile. The Scud is an obsolete USSR missile found also in Egypt and Syria. The success of the Iraqi scientists was manifested in the ability to develop or procure and adapt technologies that make possible manufacture of a three-stage ballistic missile.

In the development process, the Iraqis managed to increase the missile's range to 1,000 km. A missile with that range can cover any target in Israel. The Iraqi deputy minister [not further identified] was quoted as saying the missile was developed for civilian purposes, but any country that can launch a missile to such heights also can direct it against the target it selects.

It appears that, contrary to the Iraqi spokesman's remarks, Iraqi scientists developed the missile with outside assistance. Its success is based on cooperation with French scientists and the transfer to Iraq of French missile technology.

'Defense Sources' Deny Shomron Visit to Ethiopia

TA0902112090 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Defence sources yesterday denied a report that Chief of General Staff Dan Shomron recently visited Ethiopia and that Israeli experts are there to train its army.

The sources were commenting on a NEW YORK TIMES report from Addis Ababa quoting Western and East bloc diplomats there as saying that Shomron paid a secret visit to Ethiopia last month and that several hundred Israeli military advisers were there to boost its army.

The report also quoted an Israeli official as saying that 150,000 bolt action rifles had been supplied to militiamen fighting insurgents.

Hebron Houses Sealed; Strike in Territories

TA0902064790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The security forces last night sealed three Hebron houses belonging to a Fatah strike forces squad.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports its members are suspected of stabbing a Hebron school principal about a month ago, after suspecting her of assisting Israel.

A general strike is under way today in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip; it marks the beginning of another month of the intifadah. Only a small number of Arabs left for work in Israel.

Another car was set on fire last night in the north Jerusalem neighborhood of Shu'fat. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports the car belongs to an Arab policeman. The car, parked near the policeman's residence, was badly damaged.

Media, Official Reaction to Emigration Continues

U.S. Supports 'Political' Aspect

JN0402100590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
4 Feb 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Settling the Palestine Question and Jewish Immigration"]

[Text] The increase in Jewish immigration to Palestine represents a challenge in the most dangerous stages through which the Palestine question has ever gone.

Jordan was the first to draw attention to this danger, warn against its consequences, and call for serious action to prevent it. What heightens the danger is it is accompanied by a cover-up process portraying it as the human right to movement.

This cover-up at the same time ignores the military and political dimensions of this immigration, represented in manpower support for the Israeli military machine through the large number of new immigrants, in addition to employing them in changing the demographic structure in Palestine.

All this could encourage this machine to continue its aggressive adventures. It also could encourage the Israeli political leadership to continue denying the Palestinian people's right to repatriation and practicing their national rights on their land.

Apart from all that, Jewish immigration gives the Israeli aggressors the pretext to settle immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip; no, it even gave Shamir the pretext to revive the Greater Israel project.

Jewish immigration, therefore, becomes a support for the military and political force in Israel to confront the rights of the Palestinian people and the security of the Arab nation. This truth cannot be concealed by the flood of propaganda trying to cover up the immigration through the alleged human dimension.

In light of this conclusion, the call for an Arab summit to confront this challenge gains prominent importance. It becomes the duty of the Arabs with this prevelent situation to call for a swift political solution represented in dismantling all Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territory as a guarantee the land will not be devoured by the new immigrants.

The international conference in addition should convene as soon as possible without wasting time on Baker's proposals or Shamir's points to start realizing a just and comprehensive settlement for the Palestinian question based on trading land for peace and the Palestinian people's right to practice their national rights on their soil.

The challenge should, therefore, be confronted from the point of view of the political dimension brought about by it. It now can be ascertained, however, that a practical solution along those lines would soon be met with rejection and opposition from Israel and indifference from the United States. This is because the political dimension of the immigration is Israel's goal, which is blessed by the United States. Only then will it become clear whether the Soviet Union is ready to review its belief in the human aspect of immigration.

Foreign Minister Comments

JN0502102490 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
5 Feb 90 p 11

[Interview with Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Malak al-Tall in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Tall] What is the secret behind the coincidence of the Zionist leaders' concentration on the slogan Jordan is the solution and the alternative homeland [of the Palestinians] and opening the gates of Zionist emigration from the Soviet Union to occupied Palestine?

[Al-Qasim] To answer this question, we must explore the U.S. pressures on the Soviet Union, which have been continuing since the seventies. These pressures have achieved partial success on various occasions. The way things have turned out recently, however, is the most serious and has a strong negative impact on the peace process in the region.

[Al-Tall] How do you envisage the required political mechanism to guarantee the Arab position on this issue does not become a temporary clamor which will fade within the other issues currently preoccupying the world?

[Al-Qasim] The issue of the Soviet Jewish immigrants has an impact not confined to the occupied territories, Jordan, Syria, or Lebanon. This issue, in fact, affects every Arab in the eastern part of the Arab homeland.

It must be made clear there is an essential difference between forced emigration and emigration. Emigration comes within the human being's right to travel, but forced emigration means having a citizen leave one country for another without other options. I must explain here how the groups that leave the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe fall within the concept of forced emigration.

For example, the 1988 figures indicate more than 90 percent of the Soviet Jews who left the Soviet Union because of U.S. pressures used to go to the United States and Western Europe, not to the occupied territories. The percentage of those who voluntarily left for the occupied territories moreover did not exceed two percent.

But now the situation is completely reversed; more than 90 percent travel non-stop from the Soviet Union directly to Israel. The Jewish emigrant no longer passes through transit stations such as Vienna and Rome according to previous practice, which gave him greater freedom to choose which country to go to.

This point—the intermediary station which gave Jewish emigrants freedom of choice—no longer is possible. They now are forced to emigrate from Moscow directly to Tel Aviv and from Budapest to Tel Aviv.

I believe the goal here is to exacerbate the already tense situation in the region. Israel's objective is to torpedo any possibilities for reaching a peaceful solution according to international legitimacy, which obliges all parties to the conflict to implement UN Security Council Resolution No. 242. It also is an Israeli attempt to abort the Palestinian political effort which emanated from the Palestine National Council's session of 1988 and receives Arab and international backing.

I believe the international observers of the peace march, which has begun to take a real course, cannot deny only Israel impedes the achievement of just and durable peace in the region. It has become clear for the first time to both East and West that Israel is the major obstacle to the peace process.

Jordan was the first to warn against the dangers of settlement in the occupied territories after the occupation of the West Bank. In the early seventies, Jordan continuously warned against settlement attempts. Jordan also has warned various Arab, Islamic, and international levels against attempts to absorb the occupied territories through creating a new fait accompli, and then to create new ones whenever possible. It is extremely regrettable Arab weakness led to that development.

I accompanied His Highness Crown Prince Hasan on two trips last year to the United Statesr. His highness carried messages to U.S. President George Bush warning against what now is happening. The U.S. Administration affirmed then it was committed not to support any plan to settle the Soviet Jews in the occupied territories. That did not prevent continuation, however, of the Israeli attempts to encourage and settle the new immigrants in the occupied territories and to finance the settlement operations through the contributions of the Jewish communities around the world.

Here I must warn Israel might benefit from the anti-semitism concept, which began to resurface in the international arena. The emergence or investment of this concept in the Soviet Union or Eastern Europe will give Israel a chance to evacuate the remainder of the world's Jews to the occupied territories. If this happens, a location must be found for the immigrants, which will be at the expense of the Arab territories.

By saying the Arab territories, I do not mean only the West Bank and Gaza, but also the Golan Heights and south Lebanon, where Israel seeks to expand. Such a situation cannot be treated through merely reiterating the concept of pan-Arab security or saying any harm inflicted on Syria and Jordan will not involve the other Arab countries.

The concept of this danger should be more profound and comprehensive because eventually the entire Gulf will be threatened. There should be some sort of movement, therefore, and His Majesty King Husayn months ago began indicating the dimensions of this danger.

As for the saying Jordan is the solution, our reply is Palestine is the solution because Palestine is the point from which the Israeli expansionist operations started, and there will be no solution to the Palestine question except on Palestinian territory.

The concept of pan-Arab security is not seasonal or circumstantial. There no longer is any chance to believe this superpower will protect this country and one superpower will protect the other one. There now is only one superpower, and this is an additional reason why there should be an Arab awakening adopting the suitable practical and realistic concept to counter the new circumstances within the Arab World's capabilities.

[Al-Tall] During the past few days there were various indications on some sort of detente in the stalled peace process. How do you assess these new developments?

[Al-Qasim] Jordan moves toward peace from a clear understanding; that is, to support any political action leading to the international conference to implement the two UN Security Council resolutions binding the Arab and Israeli sides.

I so far am certain the Arab side, particularly the Palestinian side, has presented more than one signal on its seriousness within the mentioned equation. There is no relaxation or semi-relaxation in the Israeli side, because any relaxation attempt cannot stem from the intransigent Israeli stand, which is using the issue of the negotiating Palestinian delegation—which does not concern it in the first place—as a pretext for procrastination.

Jordan also supports steps leading to the international conference to achieve a comprehensive peace with the participation of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, the PLO, and Israel in the presence of the permanent members of the Security Council, which issued the two binding resolutions. It is unacceptable to enter into elections that are far away from a comprehensive solution.

[Al-Tall] How did Jordan tackle the operations that took place near the Jordan River to create tension on the confrontation line, and was this matter discussed with Syria?

[Al-Qasim] This is not a new situation. The infiltration attempts were somewhat natural since the cease-fire lines were drawn. There are some people, however, who want to exploit certain cases to emerge from the dilemma facing them. I mean Israel in particular; it hopes someone will give it the excuse to do something causing relaxation in its internal situation.

Israel today suffers from pressure resulting from the intifadah and the international stand that disapproves its intransigence in an attempt to make it respond to the

requirements of the just peace. Israel also is suffering from the pressure of unemployment and the need to absorb the immigrants to create a new situation in the occupied territory.

All this is a burden on Israel; it hopes to find an outlet to ease the pressure on it. In my opinion, he who wants to give Israel this opportunity will harm himself in the first place, no matter who he is.

The brothers in Syria, of course, affirmed to us any danger to Jordan is a danger to them, just as any danger to Syria is a danger to Jordan. Any danger to any Arab country is a danger to Jordan and Syria. This is our understanding. We hope no opportunities will be given Israel—through such attempts—to find a satisfactory exit to conceal the image of the intifadah by fabricating secondary issues.

[Al-Tall] How far has Jordanian-Palestinian coordination gone in challenging the alternative homeland plot? What are the details of this coordination? Is there a collective move to pressure Washington into playing its proper role for peace?

[Al-Qasim] Our relations with the PLO are excellent. I believe Israel's talk about an alternative homeland and things of this sort is, in fact, aimed at evading the reality it one day must face. This reality is it will sit down with the PLO, the party concerned and authorized to agree on peace. For a solution to be comprehensive, it must take place through an international conference. Regarding U.S. activity and its role, we believe the United States has an effective, essential role to play in the peace process. I believe there is a contradiction between the U.S. position on the peace process and the continued U.S. attempts to give support to Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union.

[AL-Tall] No date has been set yet for the next Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] summit. Will ACC joint defense and the membership of South Yemen be discussed?

[Al-Qasim] The summit will be conducted during the third week of this month. There is a more comprehensive collective defense pact within the Arab League. South Yemen's membership is a Yemeni affair. Whether this membership comes about through the unity of the two Yemens, or through a request for membership, we always will welcome fraternal Yemen. The ACC is open to any Arab country that abides by the rules and requirements of membership.

[Al-Tall] Some Arab states have based their approval of the next summit on the condition it not be confined to the Lebanese issue. What is Jordan's position on the summit, on the call for sending Arab troops to Lebanon, and on the possibility of listing other urgent issues on the summit agenda, such as Soviet Jewish immigration, for example?

[Al-Qasim] His Majesty King Husayn proposed the idea of sending an Arab peace force to Lebanon at the Casablanca summit. The idea then was to reach an Arab solution that secures Lebanese reconciliation without negative consequences.

The Arab peace force plan proposed that initially 10 [as published] Arab states take part in this force. They are Egypt, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Sudan, and Jordan, which were to participate equally in the force.

The Casablanca summit produced the tripartite committee, which produced the al-Ta'if agreement. His Majesty King Husayn received a message a few days ago from the custodian of the two holy mosques, His Majesty King Hassan II, and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid on the work of the tripartite committee.

Jordan welcomes any Arab summit meeting. When a summit is convened, issues deemed by the Arab leaders to have priority and special importance naturally are discussed.

In the 1987 Amman summit, discussions were not confined to one subject. We hope the next summit will convene as soon as possible to discuss all regional developments, in addition to the Palestine question, the peace process, the Lebanese crisis, the Iraq-Iran situation, and Jewish immigration—which has a considerable negative effect on all aspects of pan-Arab security—and the question of Arab water rights.

King, Al-Asad Discuss Issue

JN0602131690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 feb 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, have exchanged viewpoints on a number of Arab issues, the wave of immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and the attempt to settle them in the occupied Arab territories, as well as the latest international developments and their repercussions on the Arab nation.

This came during a telephone call His Majesty King Husayn received this morning from His Excellency President al-Asad.

Roundtable Discussion Conducted

JN0602110690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 90 p 3

[By Sana 'Atiyah, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine has caused Israel to resurrect, promote and implement the theory that Jordan is Palestine, a threat that has become a subject of serious discussion in Jordan, where interested groups are trying to find means of countering the threat.

In a meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Sunday [4 February] evening, journalists and intellectuals agreed that one of the most important means to counter the Israeli theory that "Jordan is the solution" for Palestinians was through the media.

The open meeting discussed ways in which the media can tackle the issue and promote the dangers of Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories.

It was agreed by the speakers and audience that the media should counter the Israeli theory in terms of concentrating on the human rights violations such as expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories, and highlighting the right of the Palestinians in the diaspora to return to Palestine as a human rights issue.

"The role of the media is not just to criticise the Soviet Union for allowing Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel and to demand that the United States should absorb the two million Soviet Jews and to stop aid to Israel. Instead, the media should concentrate on educating the Arabs and the world at large that Arab rights were violated and that it was Zionism that usurped the Palestinian land," said Randah Habib of [Paris] Radio Monte Carlo and the French News Agency (AFP).

Habib said that with 14,000 new Soviet Jewish immigrants arriving in Israel last year and 4,585 in December 1989 alone, the West considers the Soviet move as part of the human rights and public freedoms given to the Soviets with Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroyka reform programme.

"But there is complete disregard of the fact that there is a Palestinian population which the Zionists have evicted (tashreed) in the ugliest form of human rights violations of the century," Habib told the audience.

She added that although the Soviet government had warned Israel against settling Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel responded by saying that the immigrants could settle whereveer they wish.

Habib went on to say that it was expected that Israel would settle hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews in the territories occupied in 1967. "In fact, 11 per cent of the new immigrants now reside in Arab Jerusalem and its suburbs," he said.

"This naturally means evicting the Arab population from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and pushing them to the east of the Jordan River, implementing the Israeli theory that Jordan is Palestine," Habib explained.

She added that Israeli diplomacy and media were trying to implant the idea that international opinion agrees with the idea of Jordan is Palestine, and had succeeded in convincing some Western elements of this fallacy.

"But the question is: Are the Arab moves of a level that can counter great danger that threatens our causes and people? No. With the exception of Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the reaction of Arab countries is still generally weak," Habib said.

Through the role of the media, she added, the world must learn that despite the special relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians, Jordan is not Palestine but Israel is Palestine.

Sa'd Hattar, also from the AFP, said that it was obvious that the Israeli policy was not only aimed at Palestine and Jordan, but the whole Arab World.

"When Israel talks of 'eretz Israel' (greater Israel), the intention is (to create a Jewish state) from the Nile to the Euphrates Rivers. Therefore, the whole Arab World must counter the threat against their land, people and existence," Hattar said.

He added that in order to counter the Israeli threat there must be a strong unified Arab support of the Palestinian intifada "to ensure its strength and continuity and to enable the steadfastness of Palestinians on their land."

Hattar also emphasised the need for a unified Arab position to pressure the Soviet Union and the United States to halt the Jewish immigration to Palestine.

"The Arabs must make the Soviets and Americans realise and understand that this move has serious implications on the security and stability of the region and the world at large," Hattar said.

For Mazin al-Sakit, a candidate in last November's parliamentary elections, the way to counter the threat of Israel's implementation of the Jordan is Palestine [idea] is through deepening Jordanian-Palestinian unity.

"Deepening our unity, protecting it and ensuring its continuity is the basic solution to facing Israeli plans," al-Sakit said.

He predicted a possible Israeli scenario: another Arab-Israeli war leading to Israel occupying Jordan, mass transfer of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, or creating a "new Lebanon of regionalism and sectarianism in Jordan."

Al-Sakit added that Arabs must use the Zionist plans to their advantage and utilise the international sympathy which the intifdah had gained on the basis of human rights not "historic rights."

"If we use the Zionist policies to our advantage, their plans to our advantage, their plans will fail. If we concentrate on highlighting the fact that when the Arabs changed their slogan of throwing the Jews into the sea the Israeli position did not change," al-Sakit said.

Writer George Haddad, who also ran in the parliamentary elections, said there was no difference between Jordanian and Palestinian.

"The Palestinian cause is an Arab one; Palestine is for the Arabs," Haddad said, after reviewing the history of

Arab disunity. He mostly concentrated on the importance of Arab nationalism and criticised Jordanian-Palestinian "jingoism."

After the speakers gave their views on the subject, the public participated in providing possible solutions to the problem, which reflected views from the extreme left to the extreme right.

A moderate view was espoused by AL-DUSTUR chief editor Mahmud al-Sharif, who said that the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) can promote the reality that Jordan is not Palestine.

"With our support and funding, the ADC, with its 250 branches in the U.S., is capable of promoting and educating the American public, especially in high-density cities, on Israel's violations of Palestinian human rights and eviction of Palestinians from their homeland," al-Sharif suggested.

Another member from the audience said that it was "ridiculous" that 200 million Arabs are fearing two million Soviet Jews, and said that "we must utilise the Arab population to confront the Israelis and their plans."

One suggested that five million Arabs force their way back into Palestine, and that Palestinians in the diaspora, especially in the West, to return to Palestine to increase the number of Arabs in the occupied territories to confront the Jewish immigrants.

Another man called on the Jordanian government not to accept Palestinians from the occupied territories into Jordan, and went as far as saying that the bridge dividing Jordan and Palestine be closed off. (He later came under heavy attack from others present at the meeting).

Another solution presented was for efforts to convince Arabs everywhere that Palestinian is Arab and Muslim land then to announce a "Jihad" (holy war) against Israel. "This is the only solution to deal with an authority who claims to be civilised but is actually very primitive and brutal with our children and people in Palestine," according to this argument.

RCC Director Iyad Qattan said that he was not convinced by any of the solutions suggested by the different political trends presented at the meeting. He called for another meeting next Sunday "to truly find means which we can use to solve this problem."

He suggested that parliamentary committees should be formed to tour the world and promote that Jordan is not Palestine and that Israel is Palestine.

Qattan noted that he had invited to the meeting 25 deputies from the Lower House of Parliament, 10 senators and 10 ministers, none of them attended. "How are officials expected to solve this problem in Parliament if they don't even want to discuss it here," Qattan angrily asked.

Memo Appeals to Soviet Embassy

JN0602163390 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] A delegation representing popular, trade union, professional, intellectual, and key media figures today visited the Soviet Embassy in Amman.

They delivered to the Counsellor, Mr. Dironsky [name as heard], a memo addressed to Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev concerning the immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine.

The memo appeals to the Soviet leadership to halt the mass immigration to occupied Palestine because of the great danger it poses to the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, the serious disturbance it will create in the balance of power in favor of the Zionist enemy—which the USSR condemns—and the immense support it constitutes for ultra-rightist forces in the Israeli entity, who are speaking and working for what they call greater Israel.

The memo was signed by senators, representatives, heads of professional unions, and representatives of popular key figures.

On receiving the memorandum, the counsellor commented his country is against settling the immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. He expressed, however, his (?hope) the solution to the Soviet Jewish problem, part of the Middle East question, would be reached through an international agreement and Arab and international collective action.

JCP, Soviets Hold Meeting

JN0802084090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 8-9 Feb 90 p 1

[By Lamis K. Andoni, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Jordanian Communist Party (JCP) has urged the Soviet Union to halt the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel until a comprehensive peace settlement is reached for the Palestinian problem.

The JCP position was expressed during a meeting last week in Moscow between JCP Secretary General Ya'qub Zayadine and officials of the Soviet Communist Party.

"Such a Soviet decision would be in harmony with its previously declared position not to restore diplomatic relations with Israel except within the context of a comprehensive peace settlement," Zayadine, who returned to Jordan this week from a trip which included Libya, the Soviet Union, and Syria, told the JORDAN TIMES.

The JCP has hitherto been under attack, especially by Islamists, for failing to condemn Moscow for allowing Jewish immigration to Israel.

During a recent parliamentary debate, JCP Deputy 'Isa Madanat, defended Moscow's position stressing that the Soviet Union opposed the settling of Jewish immigrants in the occupied Palestinian territories.

But the party has decided to take a clearer and firmer position on the issue and was expected to release a press statement today.

JCP sources told the JORDAN TIMES that although the party understands the magnitude of pressures that Moscow is coming under it nevertheless believes that allowing Soviet Jewish immigration--especially if Moscow is to endorse an agreement on direct flights between the Soviet Union and Israel—would have dangerous consequences on prospects of peace in the Middle East.

"We believe that the whole issue would tarnish the Soviet image here as people would start to equate Moscow's stand with that of the U.S., which supports Israel," a JCP member said.

The JCP position on Soviet immigration marks the first public disagreement that the party has ever expressed on Soviet policy in the Middle East.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Communists

In another development, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi met last week in Tripoli with leaders of all Arab Communist parties and urged them to cooperate to counter "American influence in the region."

Zayadine, who attended the meeting, the first of its kind and held in one of al-Qadhdhafi's famous bedouin tents, said the Libyan leader discussed the implications of the change in Eastern Europe on the Middle East.

According to Zayadine, al-Qadhdhafi stressed that the involvement of Moscow in perestroika and the changes in Eastern Europe would "put the Arab World in direct confrontation with the U.S. without the support and the balancing effect of the Soviet Union."

Bus Attack Linked To Hardline Israeli Stance

JN0602113890 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Feb 90 p 20

[Article by Hamadah Fara'inah: "Peace Options Are Still There"]

[Text] The hardline policy pursued by Yitzhaq Shamir, his followers, and all advocates of the Israeli right—who are closing the door to any realistic settlement guaranteeing "a balance of interests" among all parties to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict—should be blamed for the slaying of Israelis on Egyptian territory.

This is not the first time Israelis have been exposed to such incidents. Israelis also were the targets of previous similar operations. One such operation was carried out by the Egypt's Revolution Organization. Investigations concerning this case still are being conducted in the courts. Another was carried out by soldier Sulayman Khatir in the Sinai. The files of this story were closed when Khatir was martyred in his prison cell and Cairo paid damages to the Israelis.

Yesterday's operation will not be the last as long as the Israelis remain determined to pursue a policy based on extremism, expansion, attempts to bring the Arabs to their knees, and failure to recognize the Palestinian Arab people's national rights and aspirations.

How can the Egyptians, Gulf region nationals, Jordanians, Moroccans, and the rest of the Arabs accept the slaying of their unarmed brothers on Palestinian Arab soil under their very noses? How should they receive news of the demolition of mosques, desecration of churches, displacement of families, and all other Israeli crimes? Should they receive such news with joy and roses? Should they embrace and kiss the Israelis for this? Does not extremism beget extremism? Does not bloodshed lead to further bloodshed? He who begins injustice is the most heinous villain. All this is the result of Israel's acts and deeds.

He who reads the book "Walking the Independence Path" by physician Samir Salamah Khalil, which contains documents and vivid evidence of the situation in Palestine where horrendous deeds are practiced daily by the Israeli occupation troops and authorities, becomes well aware of the magnitude of the suffering plaguing our Arab people in the occupied territories.

Because they have tasted the bitterness of pain and death, the Arabs are aware more than others of the loss caused by the death of loved ones. That is why they are yearning for peace, real peace, or rather, a realistic peace based on "a balance of interests." Are Shamir and Israeli politicians interested in peace, or has the arrogance of power continued to blind them and thus prevent them from reaching this conclusion?

King Makes Promise of General Political Amnesty

JN0602101690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 90 p 1

[By Ghadir al-Tahir, JORDAN TIMES staff writer]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn has promised general amnesty for all political prisoners and has asked Prime Minister Mudar Badran to expedite the process of their release, according to several members of Parliament and cabinet ministers.

The promise was made during a visit by the King to the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces Sunday, acompanied by members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, said Amman Deputy Fakhri Qa'war.

Recounting the exchange, Qa'war told the JORDAN TIMES that he and fellow Amman Deputy Sayf al-Din

Murad approached the King during the visit and raised the issue. The King agreed with their view that bureaucracy was delaying the process of release of political prisoners, Qa'war said.

"We told the King that red tape was hindering the process," said Qa'war. "The King agreed with us and promised a total amnesty for all political prisoners in Jordan," said the newspaper columnist who was elected to the Christian seat in the Third District of Amman in last November's elections to the Lower House.

Several senior officials and deputies confirmed that the King later told the prime minister "to settle the issue of political prisoners as quickly as possible."

The King's promise and directive to the prime minister come after the government released all political detainees—meaning those who were held without trial—and indicated that it was studying the cases of those already tried and convicted of political and security offences.

No precise number of political prisoners was available, but informed sources said that there were at least 60 to 65 people held at the Suwaqah prison, serving sentences ranging from two years to life after they were found guilty of charges of "affiliation to an illegal political organisation and plots against national security."

In another development, a 24-year-old resident of al-Fuhays was released last week after spending six months of a four-year sentence for affiliation with a political party, a family source said.

Munir Sulayman 'Akrush and another young man also from al-Fuhays were arrested in early August when they were found in possession of underground leaflets, the source said. The two were charged with the now defunct 1953 law on combatting Communism, apparently the last case in which the law was applied before being abolished last month, according to the source. 'Akrush was sentenced to four years in prison but his co-defendant was ordered released by the military court in December, the source said. "The case was reviewed last month and 'Akrush was ordered freed," added the source without giving details.

Political observers have been predicting a general royal amnesty for political prisoners in Jordan ever since Badran's government assumed office in December. "It seems that the government had been too busy with the vote of confidence session in Parliament, followed by the debate on the draft budget (which was endorsed Saturday) to take up the issue and expedite the process of releasing convicted political prisoners," said an observer.

Continued Support for Government Predicted

JN0602104890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Feb 90 pp 1,2

[By Mariam M. Shahin, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament's approval of the 1990 budget Saturday [3 February] gave the government a majority of 52 votes—enough to pass the draft budget law but considerably less than the 65 votes which the government received in the House's vote of confidence on new year's day.

The reduced majority could be explained by shifting alliances and patterns of voting by the 80 deputies, but not by any solid indications that the government is losing its solid support in the House, according to deputies and parliamentary observers.

For one thing, the Muslim Brotherhood deputies were given a free hand by their leadership to vote whichever way they wished on the budget, said the official spokesman of the Brotherhood Bloc, 'Abd al- Latif 'Arabiyat.

Although the 24-member Brotherhood Bloc had given the government unanimous vote of confidence on Jan. 1, with the sole exception of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant (East Amman), only 18 members of the bloc voted for the draft budget Saturday. Four Ikwan [brotherhood] deputies opposed the budget and two abstained.

"We had agreed to vote as a bloc in the vote of confidence in January because our demands were met in a satisfactory manner," 'Arabiyat. "This time it was up to the individual members to vote whichever way they wanted. We consider that the vote on the budget is not equivalent to the vote of confidence in the government. Rather it is a vote for a law, nothing more nothing less."

The four Ikwan deputies who voted against were Shaykh Abu-Zant, Humam Sa'id (West Amman) Muhammad Abu-Faris (West Amman) and Ahmad al-Khawfahi (Irbid). Those who abstained were 'Ali Hawamidah (East Amman) and Muhammad Al-Haj (al-Zarqa').

"I have not asked any of our bloc members why they abstained or why they voted against the budget. But whatever their reasons may be, they are not likely to clash with the broader Brotherhood platform," 'Arabiyat said. "As far as Shaykh Abu-Zant is concerned, he failed to vote with the agreed stand during the vote of confidence in January and since then he is his own spokesman. He is still a member of our bloc, however," he added.

Ikwan deputies who opposed the budget said that the draft law was traditional and did not sufficiently address the country's economic woes, including demands they themselves made. Some of these demands included: all foreign debts and loan agreements be cancelled immediately; payment of alms (zakat) be introduced to pay back the country's debts; investigations of all officials who were ever in a position to misuse public funds be undertaken; salaries of low income groups be indexed to the cost of living; and Jordan's natural resources be exploited and utilised at a more rapid pace.

Maverick member Shaykh Abu-Zant said democracy meant that each Parliament member votes according to his conscience. "I voted against the budget because it does not give the citizens the economic rights that Islam gives them," Abu-Zant said. "It does not address the country's debt situation, nor does it address the unemployment problem in a feasible manner." he stressed that the government's stress on developing the city of Amman undermined decentralisation, which he felt was a necessary step towards economic recovery.

As for the 10 member Democratic Bloc, the vote was more even, albeit less planned. Nine of its members voted against the budget while only one, Al-Karak Deputy Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, abstained. It was the first time since the bloc was formed last November that the majority voted "almost in unison." "We did not agree to vote in unison. It just happened that all of us were not satisfied with the budget," said one of the bloc's deputies who did not want to be identified.

In rejecting the budget proposal, the bloc's deputies cited inadequacies in the budget's approach to revenues, tax exemptions, policies on foreign and local debts, unemployment, deteriorating living standards, and said the government's subsidy policies were more oriented towards the "well off" instead of the "poor."

Although some members of the bloc indicated last week that a split within the bloc was taking place among leftists and pan-Arabists, the united stand on the budget issue subdued such schism, at least for the moment. The bloc was divided during last December's debate on the vote of confidence with some voting against the government while others abstained.

Two members of the Democratic Bloc, who are members of the Financial Committee, were criticised during the Lower House sessions for not making any objections while reviewing the budget as members on the Financial Committee. The two, Bassam Haddadin (Al-Zarqa') and Dhib Marji (Irbid), joined their bloc members in voting against the budget.

Democratic Bloc member Salim al-Zu'bi (Al-Ramtha and Bani Kanana), who voted against both confidence in the government and the budget draft law, told the JORDAN TIMES in an interview: "Those who voted against the budget, but not the government, did so for tactical reasons. During their campaigns they had openly spoken out aginst the country's agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the London Club and Paris Club. Since the budget included those agreements, the least those deputies could do is to stick to their economic platforms and oppose the budget that included the accords as they had promised their constituents."

Husayn Mujalli (Irbid) told the Lower House Saturday that the vote on the budget was tantamount to another vote of confidence in the government since it was a vote for or against the government's financial programme.

The two other blocs in parliament, the 23-member National Bloc and the eight-member Independent Bloc, voted unanimously in favour of the budget.

They had given the government a solid vote of confidence on Jan. 1 Saturday's vote by the two blocs came as a surprise to some observers since the two blocs were rumoured to be falling apart earlier last week and the split was expected to show in the voting pattern.

Islamist Deputy Layth Shubaylat (West Amman) and fellow Islamist Ya'qub Qirrish (East Amman) voted against the budget. The two had levelled strong accusations at the government in speeches last week criticising the budget for its inadequacy to meet the country's needs." While Shubaylat did not give the government his vote of confidence on Jan. 1, Qirrish did.

Renowned critics of the Badran government Dhuqan al-Hindawi (Irbid) and Ahmad 'Uwayd al-'Abbadi (Amman) also voted against the budget. Both had not given a vote of confidence to the government.

Two other deputies who are not members of any of the parliamentary bloc and gave a vote of confidence to the government, voted against the budget. They were Marwan al-Humud and Hisham al-Sharari.

'Awn Reportedly Sends Memo to U.S Administration

NC0902110290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The QATARI NEWS AGENCY [QNA] has disclosed that 'Awn sent a memo to the U.S. Administration the day before yesterday. In his memo, 'Awn said he had information on preparations by the Lebanese Army stationed in West Beirut, al-Madfun, and upper al-Matn to carry out a limited military operation in the next three days. The agency said 'Awn asked Washington, through a mediating European country, to stop any military attack against the eastern area in the future. 'Awn threatened the United States with planning to resort to a wide-scale military surprise should al-Hirawi seek the Syrian troops' assistance in any attack against the eastern area.

'Awn Forces Kill 1; Death Toll Rises to 323

NC0802175990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn's snipers stationed in the al-Binayah al-Bayda' building in 'Ayn al-Rummanah in East Beirut opened fire at approximately 1600 today. A passerby in the new quarters of 'Ayn al-Rummanah was killed. His body was taken to the Furn al-Shubbak Red Cross center.

According to a new count of the victims of the clashes which began nine days ago, more than 323 have been killed and 1,318 wounded.

Lahhud Forces' E. Beirut Intervention 'Imminent'

NC0802094190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] The London-based AL-HAYAH newspaper carries a report today about an imminent intervention by the legitimate Lebanese authorities to end the current tragic situation in the eastern area. The paper says that this intervention will be carried out by Lebanese Army forces under the command of General Emile Lahhud. It notes that President Ilyas al-Hirawi has acquired Arab and international political cover for such an action and has received important military assistance.

Mediation Committee Details Cease-Fire Agreement

NC0802181690 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1749 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Statement read by mediator Shakir Abu-Sulayman—live]

[Text] As a result of the several meetings held by the mediation committee with His Excellency Prime Minister and Army Commander General Michel 'Awn and with Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' to put an end to the fighting and its consequent tragedies and to clarify the principles approved which will close the page of differences and open a new page of cooperation to defend the homeland's sovereignty and legitimacy and its sons' freedom and dignity;

Following the preparatory meeting held on Wednesday, 7 February, between the committee representing the Army and the committee representing the Lebanese Forces, the mediation committee has issued the following agreement:

1. To consolidate the cease-fire and take all measures to return life to normal.

2. To emphasize that there is no decision or intention to abolish the Lebanese Forces but rather to unite the rifles and the military effort. Its mission will be confined to questions of defense and not extend to internal security issues.

3. To preserve the homeland's entity and sovereignty, stressing public freedoms and political pluralism, without resorting to weapons to decide political differences.

4. To resist the entry of any army or any military force into the free areas.

5. To oppose any agreement that conflicts with Lebanon's sovereignty, the structure of its pluralistic society, and the balance of its constitutional institutions.

6. To establish a national authority [marja'iyah wataniayh], under the chairmanship of His Excellency Prime Minister Gen Michel 'Awn, which will discuss fundamental national issues.

Fighting Resumes

NC0902064890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Excerpts] So far the mediation committee has failed to pacify the situation in the eastern areas of Beirut or to dissuade the rebel officer from forging ahead with his destructive scheme. [passage omitted]

According to the most recent security reports, the two sides are exchanging machinegun and rocket fire along the combat lines of 'Ayn al-Rummanah and Furn al-Shubbak.

[At 0545 GMT on 9 February (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic adds, "AFP carries a new count of the casualties in the eastern area incidents. The count indicates that over 417 people were killed and 1,655 others wounded. Citing medical sources, AFP says that the majority of the victims were members of 'Awn's group and the Lebanese Forces. It indicated that 16 people died from their wounds yesterday."]

Minister Rizq on Government Response to Fighting

NC0802145490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss chaired a ministerial meeting this morning. Defense Minister Dr

Albert Mansur, Interior Minister Ilyas al-Khazin, Information Minister Edmund Rizq, and Economy Minister Dr Nazih al-Bizri attended the meeting.

Following the one-hour meeting, Minister Rizq said: The discussions dealt with the events taking place in the eastern area, the torture and dangers to which the citizens are exposed, and the present situation in the armed clashes and the futile war. Appeals have been made for help to bury the dead.

Minister Rizq added: The question today is who is a human being and who is not, who is a citizen and who wants to destroy the homeland? He further said: We hear the heartfelt appeals and we respond to them. We react to these appeals and we say that we are all heading toward initiatives which will resolve this situation and put an end to all this tampering with Lebanon's fate.

On the question of immediate measures in the field, Minister Rizq said that the government has adopted a stand and has decided to become the government of a united Lebanon and to heed the call of duty.

Papal Envoy Appeals to Al-Hirawi on Use of Force

NC0802123690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente today addressed an appeal to President al-Hirawi asking him to abandon any idea of military intervention in the eastern area. Puente said that two armies are already fighting on the ground and that if a third army intervenes, a new massacre will result.

In a statement to AFP, Puente said that he is unable to contact President al-Hirawi by telephone. He added: I believe, however, that he will hear my humanitarian and nonpolitical appeal and will understand me. He said that he will ask those fighting now that both sectors of the capital be supplied with water and electricity.

Vatican's 'Duplicity' Criticized

NC0802155690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] The papal nuncio has adopted an ambiguous stand. AFP today quoted him as expressing opposition to the Lebanese legitimate authority's adoption of a stand which will save the eastern area from the futile war 'Awn launched against lives and property. The ambiguity and duplicity of the Vatican's stand is revealed by a statement which was carried by the Vatican's radio yesterday. The radio said that Michel 'Awn bears responsibility for the killing and destruction in the eastern area. It pointed out that the United States is inclined to agree to the downfall of Michel 'Awn.

Amal Groups' Infiltration Attempt 'Repulsed'

NC0902080690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] A Hizballah media source has made the following statement: Birri's Amal groups are continuing their endeavors to keep the situation in Iqlim al-Tuffah unstable, using all bestial and repressive measures to inflame the atmosphere of sedition. At 1600 yesterday, these groups attempted to infiltrate the Sarba-Humin front toward 'Ayn Qana, after having prepared for the attempt by shelling regional villages for 90 minutes. The resistance mujahidin repulsed the infiltration attempt after a 30-minute violent clash. The groups, with some dead or wounded, were forced to withdraw.

Hizballah's Al-Tufayli Hails Ismailia Operation

NC0902073690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli spoke about Muslim culture before the victory of the [Iranian] revolution during a ceremony organized by the women's committee at Imam Rida Mosque in the Bi'r al-'Abd area. He said Imam Khomeyni, may he be blessed, had raised the slogan of return to the genuine Islam of Muhammad and to the culture of the Prophet's companions, may peace be upon them. [passage omitted]

At the end of his speech, Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli saluted those who carried out the Ismailia operation in Egypt. He said this operation points to several indications. It also means that all the efforts of the United States and Husni Mubarak will be in vain. He stressed that sooner or later, the Egyptian people will say no to normalization with the Zionist enemy and yes to Islam.

Hizballah Radio: 'Undue Clamor' Over Bus Attack

NC0902105790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The murder of nine [as heard] Zionist Jews from from among the enemies of God and our nation is the subject of undue clamor. They were killed at the hands of those demonstrating dignity, revenge, and concern for the Muslims' homelands, causes, and destinies.

The Zionist bus incident in Ismailia is being condemned more than the continued Zionist aggression against the Arab and Muslim countries and more than the new Jewish influx to settle the Muslim land of Palestine is being denounced. We are not sure whether the voice of any of those denouncing the aggression was heard deploring the Zionist violations. The statements and messages of denunciation, condemnation, and regret, being so numerous and from diverse sources, are doing the enemy a matchless service by showing the Zionists as victims, as widely admitted. What the Jews had been dreaming about in the past has become a truth attested to by everybody, including the Egyptian mufti, the Al-Azhar shaykh, and PLO chairman. All these, and

many others, have denounced and deplored the murder of the nine Jews, but they had failed to denounce or deplore any of the Zionist atrocities committed in the occupied territories. Today the spokesmen of Arabism and Islam are lamenting the shedding of Jewish blood, since it is prohibited blood. We wonder what Yitzhaq Shamir will do next?

Throughout the history of Zionism, we have never heard any of their leading figures regretting the blood of a Muslim unjustly shed as a result of the occupation and its measures. The Zionists have kept their composure in the face of challenges and declined to prohibit Muslim blood from being shed because their very Zionist creed, which they follow to the letter, is based on this. Every day the Jews kill Muslims in cold blood, knocking down their homes without any hesitation and locking up their women and youth with the utmost arrogance. The media's indignation is not aroused by this, however, because a Muslim's blood is cheap and free as long as he is objecting and protesting. The Egyptian regime will continue to mercilessly murder, lock up, and persecute the fundamentalists, but the fundamentalists' blood is free for shedding because they are objecting and protesting. Only if they wholeheartedly follow the regime will their blood be preserved. [passage omitted]

Even in terms of the punitive measures, the crime of the murder of Zionists in Egypt by Muslims and that of the murder of Muslims by Zionists in the occupied territories are not the same. In Egypt, a murderer of a Jew is killed, but in the occupied territories a Zionist who kills a Muslim Palestinian will face a maximum prison sentence of 7 or 10 years. Some courts even hand down a lesser sentence because the Jews are always acting in self-defense. Therefore, in most cases Jewish killers of Palestinians get acquitted on grounds of self-defense, even if the case involves an attack by a Jew against the Palestinian's home, property, or others. [passage omitted]

Naturally, the Egyptian regime is searching for a way out of this crisis that is threatening peace. The way out is easy: The operation was carried out by Palestinian extremists and pro-Iranian fundamentalists. It is as if the regime were saying that no one in Egypt hates and antagonizes the Jews and that the enemies of peace come from behind the borders, but that we, meaning the regime, have concluded treaties to fraternize with the Jews and have no intention of going back on our promises and treaties, not because we fear God's punishment, but because we fear the punishment of the civilized Western world. Nowadays, the Jews have become charming and made their blessing available to Soviets, East Europeans, and Arabs only upon request from these new prophets of the sons of Israel, although these prophets glorify might, not God.

Factory To Produce 'Crack'; Columbian Links Noted

NC0602125690 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 5 Feb 90 p 5

[Text] A new factory to produce "crack", the latest type of narcotic, has been set up in Lebanon with material imported from Colombia. This was done after the Colombian Government intensified its pursuit of the drug gangs in that country.

The Colombian drug gangs have links with well-known groups in Lebanon which used to supply them with special types of (raw) material to be processed in Columbia. Apparently, they now wish to produce this type in Lebanon, in areas lying outside the control of the legitimate authorities.

Soviet Ambassador Makes Statement on Immigration

JN0902074690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Damascus—Aleksandr Zotov, Soviet ambassador to the Syrian Arab Republic, has made the following statement to the SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY:

The USSR fully understands how Palestinians and the Arab world as a whole look at the issue of Jewish immigration to Israel, particularly in the recent period. I would like to explain some points on the Soviet position on this issue.

The USSR strongly condemns any illegal Israeli practices against Arab countries and peoples. Within this context, we believe that the policy followed by the Israeli rulers of settling Jewish immigrants in occupied Arab territory is a crude violation of international law and blatant defiance of the United Nations, which has, on many occasions, condemned the occupation of Palestinian and other Arab territory and asked Israel not to carry out any acts that would change the status of the occupied territory, including its demographic status.

Israel's behavior is considered a violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention for 1949 stipulating that the occupying state has no right to displace the original inhabitants or to settle part of its inhabitants in the territory it occupies. It is known that Israel is a signatory to this document. I would like to affirm that the USSR strongly objects to settling Jewish immigrants from the USSR in occupied Palestinian territory.

With regard to emigration itself, we should take into consideration that it is based on Soviet legislation that was laid down in harmony with the rules and commitments undertaken by the USSR in the same way as any other country that respects international charters regarding its citizens' rights to enter and leave the country.

It is important to note that these changes apply to all citizens in the USSR, regardless of race or religion. Such a practice prevails in other countries, including Islamic countries.

At the same time, there must be no talk of a suspicious deal, or of the encouragement of Jews to emigrate from the USSR. These things have been alleged by those who are trying to drive a wedge between Arab-Soviet relations of friendship and cooperation and to cast doubt on the credibility of the USSR's principled and firm policy, which is based on supporting the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian Arab people and on contributing to a fair settlement of the Middle East issue. Similarly, reports of an airlift between Moscow and Tel Aviv to transport immigrants, or of establishing a direct maritime link for the same purpose, are baseless.

We must make coordinated efforts on a large scale to abort the settlement schemes of the Israeli rulers. To this end, we believe there are great possibilities for a constructive joint effort between the Arabs and the USSR, and other peace-loving forces, to force Israel to implement UN resolutions and respect international law, particularly with regard to refraining from settling the immigrants in occupied Arab territory.

At the same time, the USSR believes that vigorous and effective action should be taken regarding those Western countries that give Israel extensive military, economic, and financial assistance. This assistance constitutes the material basis for the continuation of the Israeli expansionist and aggressive policy and encourages Israel to disregard the demands of the international community.

'Urgent, Decisive' Measures on Lebanon Urged

JN2901131090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Lebanon's Unity Is a Pan-Arab Responsibility," AL-BA'TH says: Meetings and contacts have continued in the Lebanese capital to end the existing abnormal situation. Beirut reports affirm that the legitimate authority will soon implement the security plan in greater Beirut, the airport, and al-Awza'i. This, undoubtedly, is an important step to entrench legitimacy, and consequently, move toward implementing other steps to unite the homeland in terms of land, people, and institutions.

AL-BA'TH adds: It has become a pressing need to adopt urgent and decisive Arab measures to restore to the legitimate Lebanese Government its prestige and control over the entire Lebanese territory. AL-BA'TH affirms that the delay in emphasizing the authority of the legitimate government on the ground gives opportunities to the enemies of Lebanon to undermine the steps that have been achieved toward entrenching the unity of land and people.

AL-BA'TH says: The legitimate Lebanese Government has a right to ask the Arab countries to move seriously and effectively and to fulfill their commitments toward Lebanon through helping it to overcome the isolationist situation represented by the rebel officer 'Awn who is receiving big support from Israel to entrench the partition and foil the al-Ta'if agreement.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Hence, it is the responsibility of the Arabs to embark on the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement without any hesitation. Its implementation will save the Arab nation from many troubles.

Lebanese Must Reject 'Wait-and-See Attitude'

JN3001202790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1235 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] It seems that the legitimate Lebanese authority's financial, political, and security measures have created a state of panic and confusion for 'Awn and his partitionist clique. Hence, the reckless general has escalated his threats and warned of a new war against the Lebanese—a war in which, this time, he will not hesitate to use the methods of mercenaries and maniacs, such as cutting off water and power and imposing protection fees on the citizens in the area under his control in order to increase his bank deposits abroad.

Since the Syrian-Lebanese summit and after the explicit and clear policies announced by Arab leader Hafiz al-Asad to expose the lies propagated against Syria and its vanguard pan-Arab role in Lebanon, the partitionist clique has taken measures to cause political instability and security problems in order to abort the Damascus summit's positive and constructive results. The clique considers this summit, its policies, and its actions, to be the beginning of the end of the partition and canton schemes and an impediment to the Zionist schemes furthered by 'Awn and his clique.

Relentless efforts are being made in the areas under the control of the legitimate Lebanese Government to impose the rule of law and spread security and stability by implementing the security plan, which is going ahead rapidly. Security and political preparations are also under way to put the plan into effect as soon as possible. Meanwhile, the legitimate government is preparing to exercise its full authority in governing its citizens and institutions without the chaos of fighting or the illegitimate taxation that has resulted for so many years from the unusual situation of the absence of state authority. This has been the result of the Zionist plot inflicted on sisterly Lebanon—a plot whose cancerous manifestations continue their destruction and sabotage in many areas of Lebanon. At the same time, citizens in the eastern areas, who continue to watch these measures, are anxious to see them implemented throughout Lebanon, including their own areas where a crisis exists. They are suffering from the terrorism and persecution practiced against them by the partitionist clique, which silences people and assassinates whoever dares tell the truth, imposes strict censorship on newspapers and other mass media, paralyzes key political and spiritual figures, and collects funds illegally to increase the deposits of the al-Yarzah general. The general has sold himself to the devil and wants to drive Lebanon, if he can, into the labyrinth in furtherance of orders from his masters behind the armistice lines.

The current situation in Lebanon constitutes a major test for the Lebanese leaders. Those who have adopted a wait-and-see attitude, and those who still maneuver and camouflage their positions, will lose themselves before anything else and will gain nothing in the future. Nonetheless, the leaders who truly believe in the inevitability of Lebanon's unity, Arabism, and independence are called upon today more than ever before to defend their convictions and oppose the partitionist clique strongly and firmly, and to thwart its acts and measures—measures that are pushing the country toward explosion and violence and are jeopardizing the future of Lebanon—homeland, people, and nation.

The national accord movement that began in al-Ta'if and has been consolidated by the legitimate Lebanese Government's policies will not come to a halt. This movement receives full backing and support from the entire Arab nation and from Syria in particular. Indeed, the irresponsible actions of the partitionists and those linked to the enemies of Lebanon and the Arabs will exacerbate the agonies of the Lebanese: They will never manage, however, to destroy the will of a people yearning for unity and freedom, for the liberation of their land from Israeli occupation, and for the expulsion of the hireling agents.

Offices for Boycott of Israel Issue Resolutions

JN0802123690 Damascus AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Damascus, 2 Feb (SANA)—The Liaison Officers Conference of the Regional Offices for the Boycott of Israel in the Arab Homeland concluded their 62d conference here yesterday under the chairmanship of Zuhayr 'Aqil, general commissioner for the boycott of Israel.

The conference issued various resolutions and recommendations on 56 general topics that are intended to develop the boycott rules, as well as the measures for implementing them to serve Arab interests. The most important of these resolutions is the reformulation of the boycott decisions. Thus, the conference approved banning the importation of commodities or goods carrying prohibited trade marks from whatever company, regardless of its nationality or source.

The conference approved banning the entry of any product or goods carrying the name or picture of any person who is banned from entering Arab countries.

The conference also decided to refer to the Arab League Council the issue of supplying Israel with manpower so that the council will inform foreign states supplying Israel with this manpower of the negative repercussions that this may have on their relations with the Arab states in the event that they continue to provide Israel with the manpower of their citizens.

The conference recommended that the cases of two foreign companies be settled on the basis of documents submitted by these companies—the first from South Korea and the second from India.

The conference approved lifting the ban on some 17 foreign companies and their branches. These companies are American, Indian, Cypriot, Italian, British, and French companies.

Likewise, the conference approved lifting the partial ban that was imposed on the Japanese Company Figitsu

Limited [name as published], and maintaining the ban on a British company and branches of a U.S. company on the black list.

The conference recommended the banning of any dealings with 20 companies. These include Canadian, Indian, Spanish, American, Italian, French, Greek, and Cypriot companies.

The conference recommended that partial boycott be imposed on an Indian and a Cypriot company.

Export Committee Notes 'Favorable' Trade Balance

JN0802142990 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The Export Committee met at 1230 today, chaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Also attending were Comrade Rafiq Akhtarini, member of the regional command, head of the regional Economic Bureau; Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and ministers on the committee, as well as officials concerned with foreign trade and export operations.

The export committee studied the findings of a report on the 1989 export plan. [passage omitted]

After reviewing the encouraging results contained in the report monitoring the implementation of the 1989 export plan, the committee noted that the trade balance was favorable. The attendees emphasized that priority in imports should be given to production requirements and necessary goods. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Returns From Oman

JN3101175090 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Damascus, 31 Jan (SANA)—Information Minister Muhammad Salman and his delegation returned to Damascus this afternoon after a visit to the Sultanate of Oman during which an executive program in the field of media activities was signed between Syria and Oman for 1990-1991. [passage omitted]

Correction to TISHRIN Blames Moscow

WA0902151790

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "TISHRIN Blames Moscow," found under overall heading "Commentaries View Emigration of Soviet Jews," published in the 8 February Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 41, column two: Please change headline to read "TISHRIN Cites Moscow"...(changing word "Blames" to "Cites")

Afghanistan

Shevardnadze, Baker Moscow Meeting Viewed

LD0802173990 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0500 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb. 7, BAKHTAR—In relation to the James Baker's visit to Moscow a BAKHTAR political observer writes:

It is due that talks between Eduard Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the Soviet Union and his American counterpart James Baker, start in Moscow on February 8, 1990.

The state and people of the Republic of Afghanistan welcome any kind of decision help political solution of the Afghan problem, acceptable by the concerned sides, and ensuring of a durable peace in the Republic of Afghanistan.

In regard to the restoration of a durable peace in the country, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) has already mentioned a specific mechanism in its proposals which undoubtedly accelerates process of peaceful solution of situation around Afghanistan. It is hoped that necessary stress be made in the talks of the two foreign ministers on this mechanism.

On the other hand the RA leadership in relation to the agreement of the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and USA. On the simultaneously cut of arms and ammunition to the warring sides, is in the opinion that this measure is of prime importance.

Najibullah, president of the RA during his interview with a team of foreign journalsits while expressing points of views of the RA state said that cutting of arms and ammunition must be considered as a complex matter.

Cutting of arms supply to the warring sides by the U.S. and Soviet Union is not enough at all.

But all countries should stop sending arms to the sides involved in the Afghan issue.

President of the Republic of Afghanistan added that for putting an end to war in the country simultaneous with the cutting delivery of arms, it is necessary to stop combat operations and impose ceasefire and under UN supervision the existing arms depots should be removed from Afghanistan and in the case of presence of creditable legal and international guaranties the issue of demilitarization of Afghanistan can be taken into consideration.

The political observers believe that reaching such accord can speed up the comprehensive settlement of the Afghan issue.

Now the two foreign ministers of the two super powers of the world want to discuss the political settlement of the Afghan issue in their talks. It is necessary to point out once again the main lines of the peace proposals of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan on ensurance of peace in the Republic of Afghanistan.

Start of the dialogue and talks between the state of the Republic of Afghanistan and the armed opposition groups which are interested in peace, holding of a peace conference attended by all representatives of all parties and groups, proclamation of cease-fire for six months, setting up of a leadership council, establishment of a commission for drafting of a new constitution and the law of elections, expansion of leadership council, setting up of a broad-based coalition government participated by all parties and groups, including in the leadership council, holding of Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly), approval of the constitution and law of elections, holding of nation-wide elections under UN-supervision, formation of a government by a party or the coalition of the winner parties in the elections are the main lines of peace proposals of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan. If agreement is reached on the said proposals and if they are honestly put into practice, surely a lasting and durable nation-wide peace will be maintained in Afghanistan.

We hope that the Soviet and the U.S. foreign ministers would reach to necessary agreements on peaceful settlement of the Afghan issue.

Military Operations Around Kabul Province Noted

LD0802174490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Units and companies of the Kabul garrison, in order to prevent subversive activities by the extremists, have begun mopping up operations around Kabul Province. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military section reported that during these operations, 46 extremists were eliminated, including two Saudi Wahhabi mercenaries, and 55 were severely wounded. A number of Sakr-30 and Sakr-20 American missiles and thousands of rounds of assorted weapons were seized by the Armed Forces.

During his operation, an enemy arms cache, two rocket missile units, and three trucks carrying weapons, were also destroyed.

Saudi 'Wahhabis' Killed in Jalalabad Clash

LD0802175890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] Three Wahhabi mercenaries were killed in a hand-to-hand clash with our Armed Forces the night before last, in southeast Jalalabad. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that of these Wahhabi mercenaries, who were operating alongside the Pakistani-linked extremists and intended to

engage in subversive and terrorist actions around Jalalabad, the identity of one of them, namely 'Abd-al-Rahman Sulayman has been established from documents on him. The identities of two others, whose bodies are also with the Armed Forces, have not yet been identified.

This is not the first time that Saudi Wahhabis, within the composition of the extremist groups, have illegally entered from Pakistani territory in order to carry out subversive activities, participate directly in the war, and encourage extremist groups to continue the fratricidal war against our peace-loving people who are weary of war. During one year of independent defense of the country, our compatriots and the world have witnessed these interventions by the Saudi Wahhabis in various parts of the country—Nangarhar, Khowst, Zabol and Qandahar—and the capture of their dead, along with documents and evidence, indicate the direct participation of the Saudi Wahhabis in war and subversive activities, as well as in mass killings of our compatriots.

Mojaddedi Inaugurates Police Department

BK0802095990 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Feb 90 p 6

[Text] Peshawar, Feb. 7—President Afghan Interim Government [AIG] Prof. Sebghatullah Mojaddedi inaugurated the police department established by the AIG Interior Ministry, here Wednesday [7 February].

A total of 800 Afghan policemen completed their training period in the first phase. President Mojaddedi awarded certificates to the new police recruits in a ceremony held in Hayatabad Peshawar, where the AIG police headquarters is situated. He also inspected the guard of honour by the police force. Commander 'Abdul Haq has been appointed as the general commander of the force.

The ceremony was attended by the U.S. envoy to the refugees Peter Tomsen, AIG Interior Minister Maulavi Yunis Khalis, Chief Justice Pir Syed Ahmad Gaylani, Prime Minister 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, Eng. Ahmad Shah, prominent Mujahidin commanders and high ranking Pakistani officials.

Speaking at the occasion the AIG President Prof. Mojaddedi lauded the efforts of the AIG Interior Ministry for establishing the police force and said that the prior responsibility of the force will be to ensure peace and security in the refugees camp and will also act as border security force.

General Commander of the Force, Commander 'Abdul Haq in his speech mentioned three objectives for the creation of police force, i.e., safeguarding the borders, ensuring peace in the liberated areas, and providing security to the routes being used by the Mujahidin and refugees. He said that his police will work in collaboration with the Pakistani police in a bid to create a peaceful atmosphere in the refugees camps.

India

Pakistanis Demonstrate Near Border 6, 7 Feb

BK0902054890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] More demonstrations were held by Pakistanis at the Indo-Pak international border after last Monday's [5 February] intrusion by a Pakistani mob in Randhir Singh Pura area. The inspector general of BSF [Border Security Force] Jammu frontier, Mr. P.C. Dogra, told our correspondent yesterday that these demonstrations were held on Tuesday and Wednesday in the area of (Rustamba) and Akhnur sectors of Jammu territory. The demonstrations (?were found) smaller, and the Pakistani rangers did not allow the demonstrators to cross the international border. Mr. Dogra said the BSF was fully vigilant and capable of foiling any attempt to violate the international border.

Meanwhile, more protest demonstrations against Monday's Pakistani intrusion in Randhir Singh Pura areas were held yesterday in Jammu city and border towns of Rania and Kalanwala.

BJP Leader Views Pakistan's 'Hostile Attitude'

BK0402145890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has said that the recent moves by Pakistan and the provocative statements of its foreign minister have amply exposed their hostile attitude toward India. In a statement in Chandigarh today, the BJP general secretary, Mr K.L. Sharma, said if Pakistan intends to choose a path of confrontation it will prove a very costly affair for them. He underlined the imperative need of the center and the state governments of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir to restore normalcy and take strict action against secessionists and terrorists. Mr Sharma appealed to all political parties to rise above their political interests and work toward this goal.

Muslim Leaders Voice Concern Over Karachi Deaths

BK0802161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Prominent Muslim leaders and intellectuals have expressed their grave concern over the tragic killings of muhajirs in Pakistan.

In a statement in New Delhi today, they said that it is deplorable that the people who migrated from India 40 years ago to Pakistan are facing discrimination and oppression even today in certain parts of that country. They said people in general and Muslims in particular condemn the killings, which if not stopped will endanger the very fabric of Pakistan's society. They said it would be in the interest of Pakistan and peace in the subcontinent that the government there takes cognizance of these incidents.

The signatories to the statement include Professor A.M. Khusro; Rashid Masood, member of parliament; Mr. C.K. Jaffar Sharif; Mr. Samad Siddiqui; Mohammad Adib, former president of the Aligarh Muslim University; Shaheed Siddiqui, editor of NAYEE DUNIYA; Mr. Javed Habib, journalist; and Mr. Irfanullah, general secretary of Janata Dal.

Austrian Foreign Minister Arrives on 2-Day Visit

BK0802081190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] The Austrian foreign minister, Dr. Alois Mock, accompanied by a high-level delegation, arrived in New Delhi today on a 2-day official visit. During his stay, the visiting dignitary will exchange views with the external affairs minister, Mr. I.J. Gujral, on bilateral matters and international issues. Dr. Mock will also hold talks with the commerce minister, Mr. Arun Nehru; the finance minister, Mr. Madhu Dandavate; and the civil aviation minister, Mr. Arif Mohammad Khan, on steps to promote economic and trade ties.

Meets Gujral on Kashmir

BK0802151490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, disclosed today that concrete evidence had been given to Pakistan of plans by Pakistan nationals to cross the border into India to step up trouble in Kashmir. Mr. Gujral stated this during his 90-minute official talks with the visiting Austrian foreign minister, Dr. Alois Mock, in New Delhi.

Briefing the visiting dignitary on the concerted efforts made by the new government to improve its relations with the neighboring countries, Mr. Gujral said that he had cautioned the Pakistan foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, when he visited New Delhi last month, against the dangers of such illegal border crossing. Mr Gujral said the situation created by Pakistan's interference in Kashmir has come in our way unexpectedly in spite of the fact that India had conveyed its concern over the superpower leaders in the recent high-level consultations. [sentence as heard]

Mr. Gujral said India wants nothing but friendly relations with her neighbors and it will not do anything to impede the peace proposal. At the same time India wants to make it clear that it will not tolerate any interference in its internal affairs. He said neither the people of Pakistan nor the people in India want any conflict. All possible steps will be taken so that there is no hysterical build up in this country. New Delhi hopes that Pakistan will also respond to the friendly gestures from India in equal measure.

Bilateral Trade To Increase

BK0902040090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] India and Austria have agreed to further increase bilateral trade. The agreement for this emerged when the visiting Austrian foreign minister, Mr. Alois Mock, called on the union minister of commerce and tourism, Mr. Arun Nehru, in New Delhi yesterday and held discussion with him on trade matters.

During the discussion, Mr. Nehru emphasized the need to promote balanced growth of bilateral trade between India and Austria. The Austrian minister conveyed his country's keenness to Mr. Nehru to strengthen the cooperation with India in the area of joint ventures and transfer of technology.

King of Bhutan Visits Delhi 31 Jan-4 Feb

BK3101161690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] The king of Bhutan, Mr Jigme Singhye Wangchuk, arrived in New Delhi today on his way back home from Kuwait. During his four-day stay in the capital, the king will call on the prime minister and will hold discussions with other Indian leaders.

Meets President, Prime Minister

BK0202020490 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] The visiting king of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, today called on the president, Mr Venkataraman. They are believed to have discussed matters of mutual interest.

Later, the prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, called on the king. Bilateral and international matters of mutual interest are understood to have figured during the talks.

Departs for Thimbu

BK0402151090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] The king of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, left for Thimbu today at the end of a five-day visit to India. During his stay, the king had talks with the prime minister and other leaders.

16 Killed in Punjab Violence; Arms Recovered

BK0802145890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] In Punjab, 16 persons, including eight terrorists and two policemen, have been killed in separate incidents since last evening.

According to an official spokesman, four terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces near the

India-Pakistan border in Fazilka area of Ferozepur District last night. A large quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered.

In Amritsar District, terrorists ambushed a police patrol party in Jandiala area, killing one jawan [soldier] and seriously injuring another two.

In Gurdaspur District, one terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces in Batala town.

In Sangrur District, terrorists shot dead two farmers in Jalalabad village.

Iran

U.S. Charges of Planned Attacks 'Baseless'

LD0902093390 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] United Nations, New York, Feb. 9, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran has rejected as "baseless allegations" a warning by the United States that Hizbollah forces were preparing to attack U.S. interests in Western Europe.

Hours before the denial was issued Thursday night, the State Department expressed "deep concern" at what it called "high level of activity of operatives in Western Europe for the pro-Iranian Hizbollah organization."

But the statement issued by Iran's UN mission considered these charges as "vain attempts to discredit the Islamic revolution."

"The U.S. authorities know fully well that the allegations have no foundation whatsoever in reality. They resort to them, however, trying to justify their illegal policies and behaviour as well as their violations of international law vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran and our region," it added.

It also said that Iran has already brought "this grave issue" to the attention of the secretary general.

Paper Pessimistic on Ties With 'U.S.-Led Bloc'

LD0802115490 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Much to the detriment of the 'sponsors of war, destruction and domination,' the Islamic revolution is celebrating the 11th anniversary of its triumph in Iran, said an English daily today.

In its editorial KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL noted that although the years have not been easy but the masses and leadership 'have remained strong, cohesive, uncomprising on principles, and in control of their own affairs.'

Experience has taught, it said 'the revolution cannot have friends in the Western hemisphere' and the Islamic Republic has to 'look inward' for its reconstruction and economic revival.

The daily reminded that at this time of celebrations 'the nation cannot afford to forget how a multitude of forces' conspired against Iran for wanting to live freely and be master of its own destiny.

Freedom, it said has been 'achieved at a high price,' and included 'fighting a foreign invasion' in order to live outside the cumbersom influence of political and military powers.' [quotation marks as received]

'The people of Iran have paid that price and whether or not they will be left alone in the decade of reconstruction is not very clear yet,' remarked the daily.

Although foreign relations experts 'outrightly refuse' the prospects of early 'Western reconciliation' said the daily, the point of regret is 'there here are groups which tend to believe that former antagonists are willing to be accomodating.'

'Common sense and logic dictates that the former view will prevail and that the people of Iran will have no alternative but to be prepared for a battle on a new front,' said KAYHAN and saw no reason for 'optimism that Tehran can mend fences with the U.S.-led bloc.'

The English-language daily pointing out the fact that the Iraqi war helped Iranians 'to realize friend and foe' said 'the past will have an effect on the future.'

It stressed on unity as the 'key to the revolution's healthy survival,' and said since Iran 'through revolution and war set a new standard in the world political spectrum,' it will have its hands full 'reviving the economy after war and setting yet another standard.'

The daily reiterated that after all the revolution has passed through, changes will be to 'improve and explore options on the domestic agenda which will be characterized by discipline, efficiency, respect for law and dedication' while for outsiders seeking normal ties with Iran, 'policies are clear, priorities defined and principles engraved.'

Nine Iranians Expelled From Britain Arrive

NC0902094990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Nine Iranians who were forced to leave British soil on the basis of a decision by the British Home Office, left London for Tehran yesterday afternoon in an aircraft of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Central News Unit reports from London that a large number of Iranians living in London gathered at Heathrow Airport and bade a warm farewell to those expelled.

Even though the British Government started to implement the policy of expelling Iranians living in Britain months ago, the fact that the manager of the news office of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran is among the current expellees should be noted. The

British Government, which advocates freedom of speech and of press, undoubtedly cannot justify this expulsion.

[Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0455 GMT on 9 February adds: "Dear listeners, a report which I just received states that six Iranian students who were living in Britain, the director of the Voice and Vision's representation, and an employee of the Islamic Republic's airline office in London, who were expelled from Britain after the British Government took this step, returned to Iran this morning along with their families. They were welcomed by a number of directors and officials of the Voice and Vision and of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, as well as by students and other people at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport"]

Khamene'i Sermon Reaffirms Rushdie's Sentence

LD0902131990 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, today said that the Iraqi regime had never been after peace but only looked for a ceasefire to save itself.

"The world should know that the Iraqi regime contrary to its peace-seeking gestures only wanted ceasefire to rescue itself," Ayatollah Khamene'i told Tehran Friday prayer-goers. "This is a fact that we had repeatedly mentioned at this very holy site during the past several years."

"At that time when it (the Iraqi regime) was crying out for peace and the world was asking us why we didn't accept peace, we were stressing that they (Baghdad) are not after peace and that they only want a ceasefire. This proved to be true later."

He further added that "any intelligent person can immediately realize that (Iraqi President) Saddam is ill-intended and has no good-will" and noted "the present situation created by Saddam reduces the confidence in establishment of peace in the region."

It is, of course, unlikely for Iraq to become fool enough to inflame the war anew since it would be to its own detriment. Even at the present state, which they have created, no peace and tranquility exists, he said.

The leader stressed that the only way to achieve peace is the implementation of the UN Resolution 598. However, he pointed out that the peace plan was not something inspired by God but which had been accepted by all. The party which rejects the resolution, has, in fact, subversive intentions, he added.

More on Iraqi excuses, the leader said now "they argue on the issue of prisoners of war (POWs). We believe that the prisoners could have gone home by now if Iraq had accepted the implementation of the resolution."

Ayatollah Khamene'i who is also the Friday prayer leader, referred to groundless accusations by the world arrogance and said "since the victory of the Islamic revolution 11 years ago, any time the arrogant apparatuses feared that the word 'Islamic Republic' leaves its impact on the nations they resorted to leveling three charges, including Iran's alleged relations with Israel. They know well that Muslim nations are sensitive towards the usurper regime of Israel and that the Islamic Republic is the only state which supports the Muslim nations, he said.

In a reference to reactionary regimes in the region, he noted "it is interesting that those who bring up such allegations, have themselves open or secret relations with Israel."

"We announce that we have never had the slightest relations with the usurper, filthy and illegitimate State of Israel even one hour or one day and we have never shown any sign of friendship or kindness to them and we will never do so," the ayatollah underlined.

At this point, the worshippers at the Tehran University interrupted Ayatollah Khamene'i by shouting "Death to Israel", "Islam is victorious" and "Israel is doomed."

The leader of the Islamic revolution also reiterated that the religious verdict issued last year by the late Imam Khomeyni against the Indian-born British author Salman Rushdie who blasphemed Islam and Islamic sanctities will remain effective and must be carried out.

He further said "we support Islamic awakening throughout the world and respect Muslims' efforts to return to their Islamic entity". He also cautioned against suppression of Muslims stressing that it will be useless to quell them.

Air Force Honors Khomeyni; Son Speaks

LD0702225290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] On the seventh day of the blessed 10 Days of Dawn of the Islamic revolution and the eve of 8 February 1979, the anniversary of the expression of allegiance with the great leader of the Islamic revolution by the personnel of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], thousands of Air Force personnel, together with Brigadier General Sattari, the Air Force commander, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahallati, head of the Air Force Ideological-Political Department, revived the memory of their glorious and holy covenant with the imam of the ummah by going to the pure shrine of the founder of the IRI and placing wreaths there.

In these ceremonies, which were held in the presence of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, son of the great leader of the revolution, two songs were performed by the musical corps, after which Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahallati spoke about the historical importance of 8 Febuary 1979, the day of the expression of allegiance with the founder of the IRI by the Air Force personnel.

Then Ahmad Khomeyni said: Although our dear imam is not among us this year, still, the holy Islamic path and the aspirations and goals of that illustrious person will never be forgotten.

Continuing his remarks, Ahmad Khomeyni referred to the active and effective presence of the Air Force personnel during eight years of holy defense. He expressed his thanks for the efforts and endeavors of the armed forces of the IRI. Referring to the worthy leadership role of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, Ahmad Khomeyni said: He was one of those who did not leave the side of our dear imam, even for a moment. Thanks be to God, he is a faithful pupil, who is worthy to take up the place of the imam. From the depths of our hearts, we are happy at the choice of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic revolution, and we wish him success in continuing the holy goals of his eminence, the imam, may his noble soul be sanctified.

[video shows ceremony, with a large number of Air Force personnel in front of Khomeyni's shrine, with some Air Force officers standing behind Ahmad Khomeyni, who is the only person seated on a chair. Following Mahallati's speech, Ahmad Khomeyni stands, and video shows him speaking while the announcer summarizes his remarks.]

Khamene'i Speech to Air Force

LD0802143190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1052 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Speech by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to the Air Force commander and other Air Force personnel on the occasion of the anniversary of Air Force personnel swearing allegiance to Imam Khomeyni on 8 Feb 1979, place not specified—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Perhaps during the past 11 years I have never missed meeting a group of brothers from the Air Force on a day like today, that is, on 19 Bahman [8 February], in order to share the glory of their unique memory. Since the year 1357 [1979], when the Air Force smashed a steel barrier and for the first time declared the imam as the commander of the revolution's Armed Forces, and since then on every anniversary of honoring this occasion, I have met you on a day like today every year. Now that I look back and, in my mind, go through these eventful 10 years, which have been really destiny-making, I realize that we have truly traveled along a very winding route with many ups and downs. But we have left this route behind with pride. I mean pride for you the personnel of the Air Force.

When the Air Force entered the arena of the revolution in the year 1357, it achieved so much which is recognized as an eternal honor; and such an achievement would have been recognized in any country or revolution. Everyone knows that the previous regime had invested heavily in the armed forces and had pinned great hopes on it. Of course, the hope was not justified and was out of place. For, the commanders of the armed forces were incompetent individuals affiliated to the regime. [passage omitted]

The capability of a revolution depends on its success of winning the support of the enemy's armed forces by showing them that the revolution is just. The revolution made the elements of the armed forces part of the revolution. This stemmed from the revolution's righteousness. It was the people's righteousness which managed to win the armed forces into their own ranks as part of the people. This is why the revolution's victory came fast and easily. Perhaps the victory would have come without this, but it would have required much more efforts and presumably would have taken much longer.

Well, I must also point out that the high ranking leaders of the armed forces of the monarchy regime did not ultimately believe in Islam and the revolution, and they did not join the people. Therefore the revolution likewise did not believe in them. Then they started their mischiefs in confronting the revolution. However, the revolution is far-sighted and vigilant, and it soon grasped their conspiracies and ousted them. [passage omitted]

When I look back at the history of the last 11 years, I see that during the course of that period, distinguished points about the Armed Forces and the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran—in particular the Air Force—are much more than what can be fitted into 11 years of the life of a human or an entity. To be sure, a lot of services have been carried out during the last 11 years. Of course, this is how it should be. The Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the only entity responsible for guarding the skies over the country and for providing support for mechanized and combat units, must of course be present on the most difficult fronts and lines, as a trustworthy and reliable force for the nation. This is the duty of us all. Our nation, through its claim to independence, and through its rebellion against the world's arrogant order, has created enemies for itself in the world. Some say they wish that we had done something—or you had done something—so that so many powers would not have been turned into enemies. They do not really understand what they are saying. The order of domination, arrogance, absolute power at the apex of global arrogance's pyramid, and relative powers for its affiliate powers; this order which now rules the world considers any human being who calls out for independence as its enemy. This is the issue. You can see that today in the world, through the blessing of scientific knowledge and advanced technology which are at the disposal of some world powers—even though this science does not belong to them but to entire humanity, as such sciences were created by those who did not belong to those powers. Belonging instead to the human community, and creating all those discoveries, innovations, and scientific progresses for the sake of humanity—such

a thing [science] is being misused by them [word powers]. However, with reliance on that science and with its mastering, they have taken hold of the end of all ropes to power the world over, or they have sought to do so: be they economic, political, productive, propaganda, and the general cultural line of nations and the globe.

This does not merely belong to the present. It was like that in the past too. On the day that England, the English Government, was dominating a part of the world, or the Spanish or Portuguese Governments each dominated a part of the colonial world, or France, during the last 300 years—and, as you know, each of those European powers, within one particular juncture of the history were the gods for some part of the world—this Spain, which is now an ordinary nation, was one day a god for a great part of this globe, being present in Africa and Latin America, the same goes for Portugal and France who were present in Asia. [sentence as heard]

Even in those days those who possessed power wished to control all the affairs of the countries that were under their domination: their culture, education, language, history, customs and manners, religion, and of course their economy and military affairs; and if they were able even their politics. In other words they also controlled the political system, like the British in India, the French in Algeria, and elsewhere. However, in those days communications in the world were slow. The message of the rejection of colonialism and imperialism in the areas under their domination was not so clear, but today it is. Today when the U.S. Government is at the head of the pyramid of world power, and alongside her and below her there are other governments and powers which according to their abilities, wealth, scientific knowledge, and the other factors which are influential in their power, also have some domination over world affairs—that grouping which is not working together in the world is not prepared to see, hear, or accept that there is a government or a nation that wishes to live free from the yoke of their power. The independence of a nation is like a dirty word to them. They are not prepared to tolerate it. If a country told them not to interfere in its affairs, it is to them as if it had cursed them. They regard themselves as justified in interfering in all affairs of the nations of the world. They interfere in another place saying that they wish to prevent the influence of leftist thoughts or leftist influences. They interfere in another place saying that there they wish to maintain security. In another place they interfere, saying that their interests have been threatened there. They regard themselves as the masters of the world, as though they are even responsible for imposing democracy on other nations, as though they should also safeguard the security of other nations and governments.

The U.S. Government and its acolytes are also at the moment suffering from such a proud, arrogant, and of course stupid concept. In such a situation, in a world where they are forcing eveything toward the implementation of the autocratic, personal, and despotic domination of big powers, all of a sudden we find a nation which through reliance upon the power of faith, through reliance upon its own genuine culture, through reliance upon its indigenous power, and without receiving any assistance from any other government or power, through belief in its own national and human personality releases itself from the powerful domination and occupation of those powers and of the United States—and that in a region of the world which was 100 per cent under their domination. Do you expect them not to become the enemy of such a nation? Do you expect them not to become the enemy of the slogans which so awakened this nation and placed it against the culture of domination? Do you expect them [the powers] not to become the enemy of that person who has been able to arouse the national conscience and the attitude of self-reliance in that nation, who has restored their personality to them, who has given them courage, who has told them that they are able to perform all these things? Do you expect them not to engage in a massive wave of propaganda against the person who has done all this? It is clear that the animosity of those who controlled power, above all the United States, against such a nation, against such a government, against such a leader, and against such a government, against such a leader, and against such slogans is a never-ending animosity. Ever since the first day such an animosity has existed against the revolution, against Islam, against this country, and against the imam, and this animosity has continued in the course of the past 11 years.

This by itself is one of the lessons and a source of understanding for those who have seeing eyes. It is the nature of the superpower to make the people of the world believe that no one has the power to confront and resist it. Sometime ago, a few years ago, I said that the superpowers rule more through their aura of power than through their money and weapons. It is a fact that the aura of the might of the superpowers, the aura of the might of the United States and up to sometime ago the Soviet Union, made the nations, governments, politicians, and leading figures tremble in many parts of the world, maybe in all parts of the world.

I have often noted this: that in an international assembly [reference to his UN speech] when I delivered a very emotional speech against the domination of powers and against the system of domination in the world, in which by name I attacked and condemned the United States and the Soviet Union in the presence of more than one hundred delegations and heads of governments who were present there—after that speech a large number of people came and praised the talks and admitted that what I had said was correct. One of the leaders of one of the nations who was a revolutionary youth who was later killed came to me and said: All your words are correct, but let me tell you that all of those who are sitting here are afraid of the United States. You don't see anyone who is not afraid of the United States. All of them are scared. He came closer to me and said: I am also afraid of the United States.

The aura of power of the superpowers always solved most of their powers in the world, and is still solving them [as heard]. But their power is less than their show of power. Their weapons, money, politics, and intelligence are much weaker than their show of power. It is their awesome appearance that frightens everyone, so nobody dares to confront them. Now this awesome superpower swiftly and openly enters various countries these days and sorts out the issues in her own favor, that superpower has been struggling against this revolution and has been fighting against this revolution to be able to destroy this revolution and this system, but it has not been able to do so. This should be a lesson to others.

This is why the world's countries, nations even if you look deeply inside their hearts, many of the freedom-seeking heads of governments, those who feel the quest for freedom in their veins—chant slogans, excitedly, in support of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its nation. This is because revolutionary Iran is the manifestation of the hollowness of U.S. power.

The Iranian nation demonstrated that a superpower cannot make it fall down to its knees; and this is thanks to the blessings of this revolution, this doctrine, this faith, the blessings of Islam which can strengthen hearts by eliminating their fears and empowering them with an understanding of their human strength. We should appreciate this. Today we can see the signs of the rise of spiritual values and the fall of materialism in the world. You saw Eastern Europe. You observed what happened in many other parts of the world and you will be seeing what will happen to others later. And events in the world today are among those most worthy of learning lessons from. Things are happening in the world which, even if they have a precedent in history, they truly take on the form of fiction for us—they are hard to imagine and believe in—and besides, even if similar kinds of events occurred in the past, they occurred over a long period, sometimes years, and not, as we have been witnessing recently, in the course of six, seven, eight months or one year. These are stunning and incredible events, all in the direction of what you believe in—toward the power of spiritual values; the power of nations; the sovereignty of systems that rely on the masses and are dear to the people and move in the opposite direction to any form of bullying and hegemony—whether it is the reactionary, despotic, or monarchical form of bullying and hegemony or its modern or U.S. form. What has been proved is that what has collapsed is not merely a government or a state in a particular place in the world; it is a superpower that has collapsed. The question is one of the collapse of superpowers. We had previously seen empires such as the Spanish and British and so forth, which were empires at one point and at another, turned into very ordinary states. No one believed that superpowers of the late 20th century too may some day turn into ordinary states. We are witnessing this now.

All these things teaches us, brothers, to strengthen the Islamic system with more enthusiasm and hope and advance along the path of its goals. Wherever each person is standing they should hold on to that place firmly and safeguard it with care. And you who are in the Air Force, or in any sectors of the Army or any sectors of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, you are dutybound to preserve that responsibility carefully, accompanied by initiative, full alertness and a great deal of hope, and to fulfill this responsibility and through it, move toward the lofty aims of Islam and the Islamic system.

The Air Force passed its test well; produced great martyrs; had devoted elements in it from the start and also gained more of them afterward. Of course the enemy made a great deal of effort inside the Air Force, and here and there, it also scored some minor successes—but there has hardly been any success for those enemies who have worked on the army and spread propaganda there striving to revive that same dead, finished, disintegrated old hope which is totally stupid and in vain. This propaganda had very little effect and this is how it should have been. We saw how the Air Force was at all times brave, self-sacrificing, advanced toward goals and aspirations, was present on the arenas of danger, held its honor and nobility—and all these things are valuable. Preserve these values and increase them and increase this pride for yourselves, in the first place, and for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and know that God is with you and helps you and that divine compassion and grace will also guard you. I congradulate you again on this auspicious day which is Air Force Day and which also coincides with the happy birthday of the Lord of the Faithful, the Holy 'Ali—may God's peace be upon him—the vanguard of the freed people of the universe and Lord of the Faithful in all of history. I congradulate specially the families of the dear martyrs of the Air Force and the dear selfless devotees [Janbazan—disabled] and also this Force's POWs and missing-in-action. May God grant you his blessings on all of you.

Ceremony Honors 'Martyrs'; Khamene'i Message Read

LD0802182390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The Muslim revolutionary ummah of Iran today honored the memory of the lofty martyrs of the Islamic Revolution, the self-sacrifices of the disabled, and the families of the martyrs by gathering in the flower gardens of the martyrs throughout the country.

In Tehran these ceremonies were held at the Behesht-Zahra cemetery with a message from the great leader. At the said ceremonies, in which tens of thousands of people, as well as civil and military officials, and Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and Majles Speaker Karrubi were present, Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Golpayegani read the text of the message from the great leader on the occasion of the eighth day of the Ten Days of Dawn—the day which is named 'revolution, imam and self-sacrificers.' The message follows:

[Begin Golpayegani recording] Anytime and anywhere, if one remembers the victory of 22 Bahman [February], the portrait of the martyr and the blood-soaked role of martyrdom appears before one's eyes. That is because that great victory, which changed the course of history not only in our country but also in the world, could not have been achieved without reviving the spirit of jihad amd martyrdom in our heroic nation. [passage omitted]

Today, due to the blessing of their lives [Khomeyni and all the martyrs], Islam is becoming more glorious every day. The thick cloud of plots, mischiefs and enmities becomes weaker. The revolution which our imam brought about, and which the martyrs nurtured, has spread all over the world to awaken the victimized nations and to revive Muslim societies and strengthen spirituality while weakening divisive materialism. Islam shows itself as a manifestation of the right being proud and the wrong being ashamed. [passage omitted]

I greet sincerely the dear martyrs, the MIAs and the disabled, as well as the POWs of revolution and the imposed warf. I greet the fathers, mothers, spouses and children, sisters and brothers of the martyrs, disabled, MIAs and POWs, and declare that in terms of the spiritual heirarchy they come next to their self-sacrificing dear ones. [end recording]

Ahmad Khomeyni Praises Martyrs

LD0802195790 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] According to IRNA reporters, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, the imam of the ummah's son, in a short speech honored the memory of the trustworthy martyrs of the Islamic revolution and the imposed war and praised the self-sacrifice of the families of the martyrs. He said:

His eminence the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, paid a special attention and respect to the honorable families of the martyrs, and that much liking and devotion cannot be explained away.

Stressing the point that the Islamic revolution of Iran was, and still is, a popular revolution, he said: One of the honors of the Islamic Republic, which at the same time is a proof of its popularity, is that the martyrs of the Islamic revolution belong to kall strata of the people.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni also announced that he was convinced that, with the revolutionary people of Iran ever present on all scenes of the Islamic revolution, the path of the imam, God's benedictions be upon him, will never be left without followers. He said: Our martyrs never sacrificed their lives for welfare. They sacrificed their lives for the durability of Islam and now is the time for people to continue to stand against the atheist Eastern and Western powers with clenched fists and continue their support for the Islamic system, country, and government.

Khamene'i Agrees To Pardon 178 Prisoners

NC0902084990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Following a request by Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, and on the eve of 11 February, the anniversary of the auspicious victory of the Islamic Revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, has agreed to pardon 178 people who were sentenced by Islamic Revolution and public courts. The text of the letter from Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the judiciary, to His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution is as follows:

In the name of God, the Almighty, the Merciful. To the auspicious presence of the esteemed leader of the Islamic Revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, may your dignified shadow as the leader of the Muslims be extended.

While expressing congratulations on the 11th anniversary of the auspicious 10 Days of Dawn and cherishing the memory of the great clergyman of the century and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, his eminence the imam, may his grave be sanctified, it is proposed that on the occasion of and with respect for 11 February, the day on which the bases of the rule of oppression disintegrated and the banner of true Islamic justice was hoisted, and in implementation of Paragraph 11 of Article 110 of the Constitution, 178 people sentenced by Islamic Revolution and public courts in 21 cities whose files have been studied and about whom expert advice has been issued and who are entitled to pardon and extenuation, will receive Islamic mercy and be pardoned by your esteemed being. May your life be extended.

[Signed] Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary
[Date] 7 February 1990

The text of the answer by the esteemed leader to the head of the judiciary is as follows:

In the name of the Almighty. I have accepted the pardon of the said persons. May God extend his favors and blessings to Your Excellency.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i
[Date] 7 February 1990

Islamic Jihad Criticizes Soviet Immigration Policy

NC0702193690 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 7 Feb 90

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization in Palestine has issued a statement in Beirut strongly denouncing the continuing immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine. The statement criticied the Soviet officials' new policy regarding the immigration of Soviet Jews and urged them to reconsider this policy.

The statement said that the persecuted and oppressed Palestinian people believe that the influx of Soviet Jews

to occupied Palestine is tantamount to abetting the occupation and the displacement of the Palestinian people.

ETTELA'AT Views Azerbaijani Incidents

NC0502203090 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 23 Jan 90 pp 1,3

[Editorial: "Perestroyka's Favors Do Not Extend to the Muslims"]

[Text] Are Western governments and pro-Westerners inside the Soviet Union trying to divert the useful and positive aspects of Gorbachev's perestroyka? Are they using the Azerbaijan incidents to divert perestroyka, which has become the source of determination and faith for the deprived nations of the so-called Third World, toward the swamp which the West has prepared for it?

Are they trying to implement a plan in the Soviet Union's southern republics similar to the one they implemented in Lebanon in recent years? Do they want to create a type of Christian Phalangism alongside genuine Islamic and popular inclinations in Soviet Azerbaijan? Have the Middle East's Muslim and Christian nations not been able to live next to each other in sincerity and peace for years and years? And is it not true that it has always been intervention by foreigners and pillagers that has led to hostilities and enmities between the Muslims and Christians? Have the West and western elements reached the conclusion that by also exploiting two religions and races (the Azerbaijani Muslims and the Christian Armenians) in this part of the world and by killing and expelling Muslims, they can create another Israel? Or if not Israel, another Lebanon?

It seems that anti-Islamic elements and processes that are also contrary to genuine Christianity are trying to turn the pure Islamic and popular inclinations and beliefs in southern USSR into ethnic, factional, and nationalist inclinations. They are also trying to create a tragedy that will ultimately make the fate of Muslims here similar to that of those in Lebanon or occupied Palestine. This is the objective of this unhealthy exploitation, of pro-western processes in Armenia, and of the exploitation of ethnic and religious differences between that republic and the Muslim-inhabited republic of Soviet Azerbaijan.

Pure Islamic and religious sentiments have reached their zenith in Soviet Azerbaijan. Undoubtedly moral elements and genuine Islamic movements have played a major role in turning the Muslims of Soviet Azerbaijan toward Islamic thought.

The 70 years of official, academic, and comprehensive efforts to crush religious inclinations in the Soviet Union have also been effective in making the Muslims focus on their religious beliefs. But of course no nation's soul and body is separate from ethnic inclinations, especially when these inclinations, which are an aspect of a nation's identity, have been under pressure from another nationality, the Russians, who are the ruling race and have the ruling system. The history of confrontations, border and territorial differences, and ethnic and religious conflicts with the Armenians has also sparked the fire.

Apart from all this, the Azerbaijanis have something in common with the other nationalities in the Soviet Union, including the Russians. They are also doing their best, like the rest of the nationalities, to acquire political and economic freedom. These efforts are not limited to Azerbaijanis but are the result of 70 years of Stalinist dictatorship and pressures on all the people throughout the Soviet Union and, first and foremost, on the rich Muslim-inhabited areas in the south, which are still underdeveloped.

What has Islamic and revolutionary Iran's stand been on this? Have the Iranian Government and nation sanctioned ethnic and nationalist inclinations? Our country's official stand shows two things: First, Iran respects pure Islamic sentiments and second, it believes that general inclinations to seek freedom are not limited to Azerbaijanis and Muslims but are also accepted by perestroyka's implementers as a positive element that should be supported. Iran regards ethnic sentiments only within their natural and normal limits and within the context of free travel between the two borders, and this does not conflict with anything.

Iran has shown, both in its declared stand and in its deeds, that it has not endorsed anything different. There are those inside the Soviet Union and abroad, in the West and in the East, who accuse the Muslims of secessionism and factional and ethnic inclinations. There is no doubt that such people always exist and that various political and economic processes have been and are being implemented to exploit and distract the people's Islamic and natural sentiments.

In his statement, the Iranian foreign minister pointed out that dubious processes based on the idea of opposition to Islam have begun a concerted effort to distract this genuine and peaceful process and to direct it toward ethnic conflicts. By fanning the flames of ethnic hostilities, which are not peculiar to the current situation and have their roots in the past Stalinist policies, they have created tragic scenes of murdering innocent people and taking their homes.

Despite this, if the Soviet Government had acted more wisely, it is very possible that it could have done better in easing the existing tension because the pure and peaceful Islamic sentiments in Soviet Azerbaijan are extremely strong. This basic issue should not be ignored in these incidents. The bloody and violent suppression of these sentiments will have unfavorable consequences that will only benefit Western governments and will not benefit the Soviet Union or Iran. Actually, could not the favors of perestroyka be divided in a way to include the Muslims too?

Paper Assesses Events in Azerbaijan

NC0302210090 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Jan 90 pp 16, 2

[Majid Reza'iyan commentary: "The Soviet Union: The Expansion of Pluralism or Cultural Resurrection"]

[Text] The political, social, and economic reforms in the Soviet Union indicate both that they are "peaceful in nature" and the fact that a revolution is being implemented from top to bottom. However, some mistakes may change the nature of the process of reform there into violence, since reforms that start from the top and move to the bottom are not always completely successful. This is because during the course of reform the first step is to take nations' demands—the basis of the pyramid of power—into consideration. But it is necessary to adopt a very cautious approach to the negative and positive stands of others on the process of reform so that no one will be misled and so that the leaders of social change will not commit grave mistakes. It is also necessary to state the following points in order to be able to study the issue more thoroughly:

1. The recent incidents in the Soviet Union, especially the Azerbaijan crisis, are a test for perestroyka, glasnost, and the Soviet leadership. The success of Soviet reforms is contingent on not having a "one-sided approach" as previous Communist Party leaders had toward the people. Gorbachev must have learned this lesson very well from the one-sided approaches by the former leaders, and he must have realized that leaders cannot always have what they want unless it is gained through "reciprocity and mutual relations" between the leaders and the people.

This is where the new Soviet leadership should show that it differs from the past leadership. If the nations of the Soviet Union have to accept what the Soviet leadership likes "without asking any questions" while their most natural demand is ignored, then it will be doubtful if the changes in the Soviet Union and Gorbachev's new policies are popular.

2. The West definitely wants "the expansion of bloc pluralism" (or republics to break off) in the Soviet Union. It has been pursuing this objective for many years and since long before Gorbachev came to power. The West believes that the conditions are now right to inflict a blow on the Soviet Union. The West is pursuing specific objectives by exploiting the recent developments in Soviet Azerbaijan. Of course America's apparent concordance with the Soviet steps and with the dispatch of the army to Azerbaijan show that a series of problems were solved during the recent [Malta] summit. But the West hopes that with a Soviet-Iranian confrontation and by scaring Moscow with the phenomenon known as the Islamic revolution, it will be able to distort the outcome of the message by the imam, may his grave be sanctified, to the Soviet leadership and to mar relations between these two neighboring countries. This becomes more clear if we focus more attention on the recent political intitiative by the Kremlin in activating the implemenation of the Security Council Resolution 598, which led to a decreased role by the United States. Thus, the West is moving, with all its might, toward "the expansion of bloc pluralism" in the Soviet Union. And in order to achieve this, it fanned the flames of this crisis from the very onset of the developments in Soviet Azerbaijan by sparking off the issue of differences between the Armenians and Azerbaijanis. The reason for this is to first portray this conflict as ethnic in nature and, second, while downplaying the completely Islamic dimensions of these developments, to force the central government to take a stand before Soviet Azerbaijan.

3. This crisis cannot be summed up in any way within a nationalistic context. It is the practical manifestation of a "cultural resurrection" of a people who for years had been kept at a distance from their religious identity. Thus, what need is there for the Soviet leadership to wrongly describe this cultural and religious resurrection with such words as fundamentalism, as the West has been doing against the Islamic Revolution for years? The Soviet Union's problem in Soviet Azerbaijan is "religion." "Nationalism" is the next stage, if the issue is viewed within cultural contexts. The Soviet Union has joined the Orthodox church in order to fill 70-year old ideological vacuums. This is considered to be a favorable alternative for some of the Soviet nationalities. But in Soviet Azerbaijan too, "Islam" is the only reality that has existed for years and the need for it under present conditions is strongly felt. Of course the Russians could assign the Fahd court to fill the religious vacuum of the peoples of Azerbaijan and of other Muslim republics. But can one deny the fact that the "Islamic awakening" during the first decade of the Islamic revolution clearly showed the difference between American-style Islam and pure Muhammedan Islam to the world and especially to the Soviet Muslims?

4. Glasnost and creating an open political atmosphere are prologues to the materialization of perestroyka or profound and gradual economic reforms. For one of the most important practical stages in glasnost to materialize, and in order to "harness nationalism," which the Soviet Union considers to be against the idea of one united country, the Russians have thought of ways to increase "the right of autonomy." This form of new proposal, even though in its implementation stage, appears to be extremely complicated. But it is in practice an attempt for controlled nationalism. Nationalism is a double-edged weapon for the Soviet Union. By merely increasing the right of autonomy, the Russians intend to open up the political atmosphere in its republics while preventing the growth of nationalism, which can weaken the Soviet Union. The Russians want a united and strong Soviet Union, and this does not conform with the intensification of nationalistic sentiments, which is a means toward expanding bloc pluralism.

5. The fate of Gorbachev and the formation of the future world system should be determined in 1990. If the crisis in the Soviet Union dies down after a peaceful approach

and if past mistakes are amended, Gorbachev's glasnost will be saved. The first and most major step toward this will be for the Soviet leaders to differentiate between nationalism and "religion" and between the nature of the incidents in Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan and the incidents in other republics, such as Armenia. Of course the crisis that has emerged more extensively in the Muslim-inhabited Azerbaijan republic is because these two elements have been mixed together at a point when religion plays the primary role and the revival of cultural identity the secondary role. Gorbachev should respect the desires of a nation that has only been searching and demanding for its lost identity for 70 years.

The crisis in Soviet Azerbaijan has become like a domino that could fall and affect the other republics. If this crisis is solved in a principled and just way, not forcefully and violently, the popularity that Gorbachev's new policies have gained will not be further harmed.

The Soviet Union should not fall prey to the West's game by adopting unprincipled policies in view of the desires of a nation within that country. The solution of problems emerging from domestic confrontations and crises in the Soviet Union cannot be achieved by asking for help from the West, especially from America at conferences like the one in Malta. What the West wants most of all is for Gorbachev's recent reforms to adopt a violent aspect so that the old scenario of "the dangerous Russians" will be kept active. The West has been able to use Ceausescu's overthrow and the entry [of troops] into Baku to fulfill its wish. With a stand apparently supporting the Soviet Union in the recent reforms, the West is trying to fool the Soviet leaders. The West may want "the expansion of bloc pluralism." But the Muslims in that country and especially in the neighboring country—the source of world of Islam—only want the revival of Islam and the Islamic identity of the Muslim nations of the Soviet Union. This is a recognized right. Gorbachev should know what the imam of the ummah, may his soul be sanctified, said: The only path is to lean on Islam and on the desires of the nation. Do not be fooled by the green fields of the West.

Mo'ayyeri Returns From Turkey 9 Feb

NC0902093390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Mr Moa'yyeri, adviser to the president, who went to Turkey to deliver Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message to Turkish President Mr Turgut Ozal and headed a political delegation, returned to Tehran this morning.

During this visit Mr Moa'yyeri met with the Turkish president. He delivered our president's message to him and discussed bilateral relations and regional and international developments.

The Central News Unit reports that during this visit, our country's adviser to the president also met with the Turkish prime minister and discussed matters of mutual interest as well as the latter's upcoming visit to Tehran.

President Meets Lebaonon's Sha'ban, Al-Musawi

NC0902111590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, a Sunni 'ulema and leader of Lebanon's Islamic Unification Movement, and Husayn al-Musawi, member of the Lebanese Hizballah, are in Tehran. They met and talked with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani separately yesterday.

The Central News Unit reports that during these meetings, the president was briefed on the situation in Lebanon and in the region, and Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani gave directives.

Reportage on Visit of Special Envoy From Mali

Meets With Velayati

LD0502120190 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—A ranking Malian official Monday called for the expansion of mutual cooperation with Iran in industrial, mining, agricultural, health care and educational fields.

The Malian president's special envoy, Beule Sibi, in a meeting with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today said that his country attached great importance to the role Iran played among Muslim countries. He added that Malian Muslims were inspired by the Islamic revolution of Iran and the late leader of the revolution Imam Khomeyni.

Referring to the existing bilateral cooperation between the two nations, Velayati said that due to the strategic importance of Mali, Iran welcomed the expansion and strengthening of mutual cooperation in various fields.

Sibi, heading a high-ranking delegation, arrived here Saturday to present a written message from Malian president to his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Meets With Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0502222690 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] This afternoon President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the special envoy of the president of Mali. During this meeting Beule Sibi, the special envoy of Malian President Moussa Traore, conveyed a written message from his country's president to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and congratulated him on the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution. He said he hopes that with the full implementation of Resolution 598 peace may be established as quickly as possible between Iran and Iraq.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the president of Mali for his message and noted the good relations the Islamic

Republic of Iran has with African countries. In connection with Resolution 598, he said: We withdrew to the international borders immediately after accepting the resolution and released disabled prisoners of war, but Iraq continues to obstruct the implementation of Resolution 598.

The Malian special envoy also met with Foreign Minister Velayati today and talked to him about issues of interest to both countries.

Velayati Holds Talks With Irish Counterpart

LD0502155590 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Visiting Deputy Foreign Minister of Eire (Republic of Ireland) John Swift, met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Monday and submitted him a message from the Irish foreign secretary on bilateral relations. The message stressed Dublin's keenness to further expand relations with Tehran and to participate in Iran's reconstruction programs and first 5-year development plan. It also underlined Irish support for efforts of the U.N. secretary general to implement the Security Council Resolution 598, which seeks to end the Iraqi conflict.

Swift told Velayati that Eire's active participation in the 15th Tehran International Trade Fair held last September, was indicative of Irish willingness to expand relations with the Islamic Republic. He added that Dublin was willing to set up the Irano-Irish joint economic commission.

Velayati welcomed the idea and described it as fruitful and constructive.

Earlier in the day, Swift who arrived Saturday morning [3 February], met the Majles head of the Trade Commission Issa Velae'i and discussed the need for balancing the volume of mutual trade exchanges.

The Irish guest also met with First Deputy Minister of Agriculture Javad Angaji this morning and discussed agricultural collaboration. There will be no limit for agricultural cooperation with Ireland, said Angaji, expressing hope of constructive cooperation in cattle breeding and animal farming. In 1989, the volume of Tehran-Dublin trade relations stood over 120 million dollars.

Relations between the two countries were first established in 1976, but no Iranian Embassy was opened in the Irish capital until 1983 four years after the Islamic Revolution's victory in Iran.

Majles Speaker Meets With DPRK Ambassador

LD0602142190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The DPRK ambassador to Iran met the Majles speaker, Mr. Karrubi, this morning. During this meeting, the ambassador conveyed the warm messages of the leader of the DPRK on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution, and said he hopes the coming year will be one of victory and success for the Islamic revolution.

The Majles speaker thanked the leader of the DPRK and speaker of the parliament of that country and said: The revolution is presently continuing its path successfully, and during this period we have recognized our friends as well as our enemies. Our friends have passed their tests very well. Fortunately, one of the countries which, right from the moment of the victory of the Islamic revolution, expanded its relations with Iran and assisted us and the nation during times of hardship, was the nation and government of North Korea. This is something that will not be forgotten by our appreciative people.

Velayati Receives DPRK Envoy

LD0802155390 Tehran IRNA in English 1111 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati today reiterated Iran's support for the unity of the two Koreas.

Velayati made the remark in a meeting with ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to Tehran, Hwang Sun-muk here. He also stressed expansion of Tehran-Pyongyang relations.

Hwang delivered Velayati a congratulatory message from his DPRK counterpart Kim Yong-nam, on the eve of the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Velayati Receives Messages From Pakistani Leaders

LD0802160490 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—President Ghulum Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan sent messages of congratulations to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

President Ishaq Khan in his message expressed confidence that the two countries' relations would continue to grow stronger to the mutual benefit of their two peoples, and serve the cause of regional peace and stability.

'I feel confident that the ties of friendship and close cooperation between our two countries based on a community of shared traditions and interests, would continue to grow to the mutual benefit of our two peoples with the passage of time,' Prime Minister Bhutto said in her message.

*Report on Proceedings of 2 Jan Majles Session

90OI0123A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 Jan 90 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning and afternoon the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and then continued chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan. During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, the agenda called for continued consideration of the five-year plan for the economic, social, and cultural expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during which a number of proposals from various Majles commissions were approved by the deputies. Then a question from 84 deputies directed to the foreign minister was presented by Mr Musavi-Lari, which was answered by Dr Velayati.

Printed below are the detailed proceedings and the full text of the foreign minister's answer to the question from a group of deputies.

The first item on the agenda for yesterday's public Majles session was continued consideration of the the bill for the five-year plan.

The Proposal from the Commission on Councils and Domestic Affairs:

Supplementary Note: During the implementation of this plan, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance is authorized, at the time of collecting taxes from the sources below, to pay three percent of the tax cuts made in the interests of the municipality where collected to the Ministry of the Interior (the National Organization of Municipalities) to be divided among the municipalities according to the guidelines in the Ministry of Interior.

A: All revenue sources mentioned in Chapter Two of the Direct Tax Law in the municipal district, with the exception of the [not legible] taxes.

B: All revenue sources mentioned in Chapter Three of the law with the exception of taxes on agricultural income and salaries. The Ministry of the Interior must, in the time of this plan's implementation, prepare the necessary revenue projects to gain new revenue for the municipalities to replace the revenue in this note, in such a way that at the conclusion of the implementation of the first plan the municipalities will not be in need of this revenue source.

Concerning this proposal, Mr 'Abbasi spoke in opposition and Mr Majd-Ara spoke in support, and after the commission expert and the government's representative expressed their views, the above proposal was put to a vote and approved.

Deputies Question the Foreign Minister

The second item on the agenda for yesterday's public Majles session was a question from 84 deputies directed to Dr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, concerning the trip by the condemned Romanian President Ceausescu to Tehran, and, representing this group of deputies, Mr Musavi-Lari presented a commentary.

He said: A great many of our people, the nation's officials, and the respected Majles deputies have views on the question that is now before us, and are waiting, God willing, for the ambiguities in that area to be resolved.

Before I present the question, I will read Principle 88 of the Constitution and then I will read the question. "Whenever at least one quarter of all the Majles deputies poses a question to the president of the republic or any representative of the responsible minister concerning a subject related to his duties, the president or the minister must attend the Majles and answer the question, within one month in the case of the president and within 10 days in the case of a minister, except with an excuse deemed valid by the Majles." The good word that has existed since the beginning of the legislative periods of the first, second, and third terms of the Majles is the logical encounter by Majles deputies with various issues in society. There have been questions and interpellations in all three terms of the Majles. The questions have always been either to resolve ambiguities, to correct shortcomings, or were truly issues of concern to the public. If there are issues in the minds of the deputies, the person questioned, whether the president or a minister, must attend the Majles and resolve the ambiguity. This is one of the things that has always been effective in stabilizing the government and in strengthening the executive apparatus. The great Imam, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, has stressed in all of his talks, wherever he mentioned the Majles, the power of the Majles and the position of the Majles, that the deputies must question, criticize, and raise their issues, and fortunately this procedure continues. At the beginning of his tenure, the respected president, who himself was in this Majles for nine years, stressed this matter and asked the deputies to question, to look at issues carefully, and to be kind enough to express their views. In the same matter that is before us today, again the respected and great leader said with regard to the question that questions are the right of the Majles and should be asked. Concerning the issue to be raised now, the question directed to the respected foreign minister, on 22 Khordad 1367 [12 June 1988], the imam said that the foreign minister will make decisions in the framework of policies set by the leadership of the government and the Majles. Therefore, what is being presented today as a question, is certainly aimed at strengthening the government and at strengthening forces that are serving the government. However, to keep from spending too much time, I will present the text of the question, and it is expected that, God willing, the respected foreign minister will give a clear, direct, and reasoned answer to the content of the question.

The Text of the Question to the Minister

The question I present has been signed by about 84 deputies, the majority of members of the Majles Governing Council, the chairmen of the Majles commissions, his excellency the Majles speaker, and prominent figures, who have definitely raised this question to strengthen the government.

Mr respected Majles speaker, on the authority of Articles 150 and 151 of the Majles internal guidelines, it is necessary for the respected foreign minister to attend the Majles in public session, and to answer the following questions:

1) The failure to present a correct analysis of the circumstances and changes in Romania that led to the recent trip by the condemned Romanian president to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

2) What was the reason that Mr Ceausescu, the condemned Romanian president, went to the Islamic Republic of Iran in the period between 9/27/68 to 9/29/68 [18-20 December 1989].

It is necessary to explain that the respected foreign minister's answer to the above questions given at the 10/4/68 [25 December 1989] meeting of the Majles Foreign Affairs Commission are not satisfactory.

Mr Musavi-Lari then asked the foreign minister to give clear answers to these questions, to clarify this question for all those who expect a clear answer.

Dr Velayati's Answer

During his remarks answering the question from the 84 deputies, Dr Velayati, the foreign minister, said:

Just as Mr Musavi-Lari said, this is the right of the Majles and will certainly strengthen the government. We as officials and myself in the Foreign Ministry, will provide for the respected Majles deputies and the public the necessary explanations to the questions that the Majles asks of us, so far as we are able, in connection with foreign policy to the extent possible and where it does not harm the country's interests. It appears that in the question there is something implied that needs to be reconsidered. There is the implication that we did not give the president the information needed to anticipate the events and that we should have done so, yet such an assumption is incorrect. We gave the necessary information based on what we anticipated and on what could be anticipated, and we sat and talked with the respected president, and our recommendations along with this were that the trip should be made and we should have a mutual understanding with him. The second issue, however, is the question of whether, based on the information that was available, this trip was in our interest. This assumption has problems in our view, meaning that based on the information we had and the way things were going, we saw the trip as beneficial and necessary. We balanced the benefits and disadvantages against each other and then decided that the trip should take place. Therefore the trip was made based on all the awareness and information that was available and that we could obtain as the Islamic Republic of Iran. We therefore decided that the trip should take place, because in foreign policy and actually in all non-government executive work, it is not as if there are benefits in everything one does without any damage. In the final analysis, when we line up the figures if the total is positive we act on the information, and otherwise we do not act.

Why Was the Trip Taken

Last year, following an earlier invitation from the Romanian president to the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the time, His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, a trip was made to Romania. At what time? At a time when we were under pressure in international affairs, the episode of the apostate Salman Rushdie had arisen, his holiness the imam (may God be pleased with him) had issued his religious decree against the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses", and the European nations had withdrawn their ambassadors from Iran and were planning to impose serious isolation on the Islamic Republic of Iran. In the midst of all this, the Foreign Ministry made preparations for his trip to Yugoslavia and Romania and despite the pressure that was being applied internationally, there was a very good reception for him in Romania. Based on the existing political and diplomatic protocol in the world, whenever a trip is made, at the end of the trip the host is invited to make a return visit by the guest, and this invitation was extended to Ceausescu. They therefore followed up on the invitation. After Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani became president, he sent his aide to Romania and in a message he sent back to our president he confirmed his acceptance of the invitation and set a date. It was based on this date that the trip took place as scheduled.

Failure To Anticipate the Fall of Ceausescu

As for the fact that we did not anticipate that it was possible they would fall, this is not correct. Based on our written records, just as I said and as has been said in the talks we have had, we weighed the good and bad in it. Based on what we determined in our position, the good outweighed the bad and the trip took place. As for the fact that he was overthrown after returning, neither those around him, other people, or anyone else foresaw it in the way that it happened, meaning a bloody coup with a military confrontation. Five days ago, on 10/7/1368 [28 December 1989] UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL sent a telex stating clearly that the fall of the Romanian dictator happened so quickly that it could not have been predicted by anyone, not even a fortune teller. Concurrent with Ceausescu's presence in Iran, meaning two days before the end, Ceausescu's first deputy made a trip to Turkey and formed the Joint Turkey-Romania Commission, and after Ceausescu's return from Iran to Bucharest, conditions were such for Ceausescu's deputy that during the clashes he took a stand for Ceausescu in Ankara, and after Ceausescu fell the queen of England demanded the return within 24 hours of a medal she had

given to Ceausescu. Therefore, if these people had known that Ceausescu would be overthrown so disgracefully, they would certainly have taken back their medal sooner. Therefore his fall in this manner was not foreseeable, either for them or anyone else, and this was the first time that perestroika was accompanied by bloodshed and anger.

Musavi-Lari's Additional Remarks

After the comments from Foreign Minister Dr Velayati, Mr Musavi-Lari spoke again.

He said: I must say, there remains this important point which may be contradictory. On the one hand the foreign minister says we carried out the necessary studies, we anticipated the fall, but not in this way, and at the same time we had done studies, we had examined the interests to be considered, and since the benefits were greater that the trip should take place, we preferred that it take place. The question that comes to mind is if what was done was really based on careful analysis and study, then why did the foreign minister discharge the ambassador? Was the ambassador at fault and discharged, or not? If he was at fault, then obviously the analysis of the gentlemen was not correct, and if he was not at fault, then why was an innocent man disgraced in that way? This was an answer to his comments.

His Holiness the Imam and the Predicted Fall of Marxism

What was Ceausescu's disgrace, what did he do, what did it have to do with us, what did he do during the war, I don't want to talk about those issues at all. These very days may be the anniversary of His Holiness the imam's (may God be pleased with him) message to the Soviet Politburo. In such days, his holiness, in a historic letter, predicted the fall of Marxism and the collapse of Marxism, with statements to the effect that the sound of bones breaking or the sounds of the bones of Marxism breaking could be heard, or that henceforth Marxism would have to be sought in history books. Praise God, we have seen that the prediction of that divine man came true, and seriously, who could have predicted that happening?

His holiness the imam predicted that Marxism would no longer exist as a camp in the world and that this atheist idea would be driven out of sight, and the movement to take down Marxism in Eastern Europe began quickly and we saw that the chains of connection between the states near the Soviet Union with a group that thought the chains were unbreakable, disappeared and it is the greatest pride for us that the leader of the revolution foresaw such a day. Of all the Eastern bloc nations, which we can say were manifestations of Marxism in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe, of all of their governments, the only place it had remained and continued to maintain its own ideas was Romania. In reality, Romania was a place where the fall of Marxism was resisted, and recently its condemned president even announced, the future of history is ours, those who speak of reform today will disappear.

We established relations with Romania through an individual and under certain circumstances, and we invited its condemned president, who was the obstacle to the fall of Marxism, and this is the greatest blow to our prestige, that we should invite such a person, and give him the opportunity to stand against something the Imam predicted. Someone might say, there are some other countries in Asia or Latin America that still claim to support Marxism or socialism, but it is natural, both for the respected foreign minister and for all the dear ones who have views and information on political affairs, that there should be the remnants of Marxism in a small Latin American country or in a Far Eastern nation.

Therefore, my point is that first of all, based on what I have said it is clear that our Foreign Ministry has not given a proper analysis of the issues, otherwise, is it possible that we should say it is in our interest for someone to come who is being condemned and is disappearing? What benefit did his trip offer to us? Unfortunately, we must say that in the past as well we had such an instance where our president's aircraft was flying over a country. There was a coup d'etat there and it was obvious that the Foreign Ministry did not have a proper analysis of events there. There were also other instances, but I don't want to discuss those issues here, for it could be considered out of place.

This is what I believe, for the reasons I have given, that is that the the fact that our ambassador was dismissed shows that the foreign minister did not have a proper analysis of the situation, and also because he had helped a country to be able to stand against the fall of Marxism, and to an extent to prevent the Imam's prediction from coming true the way it should have. My request of the foreign minister is that he state the issues here clearly and directly, and there is no objection if he says that we have made a mistake.

Dr Velayati Answers Again

The foreign minister, answering again the question from a number of deputies concerning the dismissal of the Iranian ambassador to Romania, said:

The reason we dismissed the ambassador was what he said after Ceausescu's trip, and if he had not said those things, the ambassador would certainly still be in his place. After the trip, he said things in various places that were not worthy of a diplomat. Therefore his dismissal was because of behavior, analyses, and comments not worthy of a diplomat. In various ways and from various places it was reported to us that he reacted to what had happened and said things that appeared to be violations, and for this reason we dismissed him.

As for what he said with regard to the defeat of Marxism, we all hope that all the atheist schools of thought will disappear, including the Marxists and Marxism. However, if we have relations with a country that does not

mean that we are confirming the legality of that government. At the dawn of Islam Muslims also had relations with non-Muslims. This was not confirmation of the political way of those governments. Now also, we have relations with most of the countries in the world, but we do not in any way confirm their legality. Contrary to what he says, we are allowed to have relations with other countries, and it might be inferred from his statement that if we are to confirm someone, we will confirm those who are not about to be overthrown, but we confirm neither one nor the other. We act in accordance with our own interests. We place the interests of Islam and the Islamic Republic of Iran above everything else.

The Reason for Our Closeness With Romania

The reasons we said that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages are:

(1) we had a treaty with Romania, it had and has vital goods that are very important for the nation's defense. Part of this treaty had been carried out, part of it had not. If we had delayed the trip and prevented him from coming, we would have left open the possibility, if he had not carried out the treaty, that fundamental damage would be done to the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran with regard to defense matters.

(2) In early January of the current year, meaning just a few days ago, Romania became a member of the United Nations Security Council, and for us, concerning Resolution 598, it is most important that we have close relations with the members of the Security Council so that in our negotiations with Iraq we will be able to make use of the elements of the Security Council, just as our national interests require.

(3) After his return and the change of government, we were told that the treaties that were signed here with the condemned Romanian president are still in force. Therefore, if there is any anxiety in that area, you can see, things were not done in such a way that the treaties were only dependent on an individual.

National Interests Are Paramount

With regard to countries whose governments we think are likely to collapse, however, and that we are not likely to have dealings with in the future, or the idea that we should cut relations with governments that still espouse Marxism because Marxism is being thrown out and if we continue relations with them it will cause the continuation of Marxism, this implies that we should cut our relations with large countries such as China, with whom we have serious, comprehensive, and strategic relations. I say to you that only a few days ago the Chinese foreign minister clearly announced that the Chinese government is still committed to socialism, and he criticized the perestroika process in Eastern Europe, and the same situation exists in North Korea. We now have relations with North Korea having to do with vital goods. Our relations are strategic, meaning these goods we need and get from North Korea are very important items that we need for our national interests. Are we to come and destroy these relations because we think that in the future this government will not exist and some other government will come to power? What happened in Romania and the confirmation that came from the subsequent government was that the officials of the subsequent government now in Romania say of the treaties we had previously that even if we make treaties with countries like the communist countries whose governments are collapsing, we need have no fear that there will be problems for us after the government changes, because we have seen similar things in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany, where there were individuals who left and were replaced by others. There was a peaceful transfer, and no harm was done to our interests and we are not worried about it. In view of the fact that I said we understand perestroika to an extent, we know that this process will continue and that those who resist will fall by the wayside, but this does not mean that we will now establish relations based on being grounded in tradition rather than faithful to Marxism. The old principles of Marxism have collapsed, and we expect that in two, three, five, or ten months they will fall, just as I said. Our analysis was that they will go, our analysis is recorded and we have identified our interests. We decided that it was in the interest of the Islamic Republic of Iran that we not delay this trip, and for the reasons I have given, we act in the same way with other nations of the world as well. That is, our national interests take precedence over everything else.

At the end of the answer by the foreign minister, the questioning deputies were not satisfied, and the question was referred to the Question Study Commission. The Majles adjourned for a break at 12:10.

Continuation of the Proceedings

Yesterday afternoon the Majles met in public session. In the continued consideration of the five-year plan, the proposal from the Labor and Social Affairs Commission was presented.

Supplementary proposal: The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is required to establish service and expansion centers for employment-creation projects, in order to answer the increased need.

With regard to this proposal, Mr Herati spoke in opposition and Mr 'Abbasi spoke in favor, then comments were given by the commission expert and the government's representative. Then the proposal was put to a vote and approved by the deputies.

Supplementary note: It is forbidden for the beneficiary provinces to issue any kind of industrial, agricultural, or animal husbandry agreements in principle. The government and its affiliated companies and institutions are not authorized to establish any kind of industrial, agricultural, or animal husbandry units at the centers for the beneficiary provinces.

Concerning this note, a vote was taken using a vase, and it was passed with 192 present, 112 votes in favor, 52 votes against and three abstentions.

A Letter From the Majles Society of Sunni Deputies in Comprehensive Support of the Position of the Leadership

Your Excellency, the great leader of the Islamic revolution; Your Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, may God prolong your life:

With praise and greetings to the grace-filled spirit of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran Imam Khomeyni (may his grave be sanctified), we the Majles Society of Sunni Deputies consider it our duty, in this period of reconstruction, to declare, as in the past, our devotion, support, and comprehensive obedience to the sacred position of the leader of the Islamic revolution and the respected president Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the respected speaker of the Majles, Mr Karrubi. In the sensitive current circumstances, following your excellency's exalted guidance, on the authority of the noble verse from the Koran, "and hold fast to the lifeline of God and be not divided among yourselves," we support the sacred aspirations of the Islamic revolution.

Ahmad Taha, 'Abdolrahman Barzanji, Yaghmud Qolizadeh, Mohammad 'Ali Partovi, 'Ali Mohammad Baba-Khas, Mas'ud Hashemi-Zehi, 'Abdol'aziz Dadgar, Hamideddin Mola-Zehi, Seyyed 'Abdollah Hoseyni, Fakhreddin Reza-Zehi, 'Abdollah Tateli.

New Arms Production Lines in Operation

LD0602115390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] New arms production lines became operational this morning during a ceremony attended by the chief of staff of the Armed Forces; the minister of defense and logistics of the Armed Forces; the commander of the Ground Forces; and a number of other military commanders and deputy ministers of that ministry. The ceremony was held in the arms factory affiliated with the Defense Industries Organization.

Oil Refinery To Be Built at Bandar-e 'Abbas

LD3001183490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Last night an agreement was signed between the National Iranian Oil Company and a consortium composed of Japanese and Italian companies for the construction of the eighth refinery of the country in Bandar-e 'Abbas. Our correspondent has sent us the following report:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] For construction of the eighth petroleum refinery in the country an agreement was signed between the engineering and construction management of the Ministry of Petroleum of Iran and a consortium composed of two Japanese and Italian companies. The 232,000-tonne capacity refinery at Bandar-e 'Abbas is planned to begin operation in 1372 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1993]. It is planned that this refinery will refine 220,000 tonnes of Iranian crude oil and will change 12,000 tonnes of the gas liquids produced in the (?Sarkhon) complex of Bandar-e 'Abbas into petroleum products for domestic needs.

Today, in an interview with reporters, Mr Aqazadeh, the oil minister, said this refinery will become operational after the Arak refinery, and its products, in addition to providing for some domestic needs, can also be exported to foreign countries. Regarding the level of investment in this refinery's construction and the participation of Iranian companies in its construction, the oil minister said:

[Aqazadeh] The agreement for this refinery has been signed for a sum of about 1.2 billion dollars and consists of three main parts: the planning phase, the construction of the equipment, and its installation. The planning phase altogether will entail 2 million man-hours of work—400,000 hours of which will be carried out by Iranian engineers. Under present conditions, the elementary planning of the refinery will be carried out by the Oil Industries Engineering Company, which is a privately run company [besurat-e khosusi], but the oil company owns 40 percent of its shares. [sentence as heard] These engineers have succeeded in carrying out the elementary planning of the refinery under the supervision of the consortium composed of Japanese and Italian firms. On the details of the planning phase, this company will implement the planning for a number of units, the two distillation towers in the atmosphere and in a vacuum, as well as the hydrogen unit and some other units.

For its construction and equipment, 130,000 tonnes of goods are needed for the Bandar-e 'Abbas refinery. An agreement has been signed with the Heavy Industries Ministry for 25,000 tonnes of these goods to be constructed by that ministry. This entails almost all the production capacity of the country that could possibly be constructed. The third phase—the construction and installation of the refinery, will require 40 million man-hours of work, of which 32 million man-hours will be carried out by Iranian contractors, engineers, and Iranian forces. Nearly 80 percent of the work in this phase will be done by Iran. From an environmental and technological viewpoint, this is an advanced refinery, and all environmental issues have been taken into consideration. [end recording]

Oil Minister Comments on Joint Japanese Project

LD0802115990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] With the separation of Iranian and Japanese partners in the petrochemical project Bandar-Imam Khomeyni becoming certain, today Japan paid Iran 130 billion yen (Y). Our correspondent has conducted an interview with Mr Aqazadeh, the oil minister, in that connection, which you will now hear.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] At last four months after signing a settlement contract between Japanese and Iranian partners working on the great petrochemical complex of Bandar-Imam Khomeyni, the decided Y130 billion was delivered to the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Japanese partner. I would like to ask Oil Minister Mr Aqazadeh to give us some explanations.

[Aqazadeh] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As you pointed out, fortunately in accordance with projections made in the contract, after four month of preparing the ground, today we received Y130 billion from the Japanese firms in connection with the settlement signed between Iran and Japan. The sum was credited to the account of Islamic Republic of Iran's Central bank. All the shares of that great complex, 50 percent of which belonged to (Mitsui) company and its partners, have now been transferred to the national petrochemical company. It is planned that the first phase of that complex will be built by our own forces in the oil industry, and we hope that the first phase will become operational from the middle of next year. The later phases involve some companies from France, while we are also conducting negotiations with companies from South Korea. As far as the installation of that project is concerned, we hope to delegate the bulk of the work to South Korea. [end recording]

New Television Transmitters Operational

LD0202173190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] On the first day of the blessed 10 Days of Dawn the satellite television transmitter of (Haftgol), in the Masjed-e Soleyman area, became operational.

According to a Central News Unit report, the television transmitter, with 5-watt power, became operational through the efforts of the unit in charge of repair and maintenance of television transmitters of Ahvaz center. From now on, the people of the area of (Haftgol) can watch the programs of the first network of Vision of Islamic Republic of Iran on Channel 12.

Transmitter in Simindasht

LD0302122690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] During the auspicious 10 Days of Dawn, the Hesarbon television station in Simindasht was commissioned by the workers of the repair and maintenance unit of the Tehran region's television transmission and the assistance of the people of Hesarbon.

According to the Central News Unit report, the station, using the satellite system, will broadcast programs of the first channel of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Channel 7 of those television sets using a five-watt transmitter.

Transmitter in Samangan

LD0302145290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] On the blessed occasion of the 10 Days of Dawn, the 50-watt television relay station was commissioned in Samangan, a district in the town of Shahzand. According to a Central News Unit report from Arak, with the commissioning of this television relay station, installed and operated by the television transmission and FM unit of Tehran, the maintenance unit of Arak [television] center, and the expansion of the network, the inhabitants of a large part of the town of Shahzand and the southwestern parts of Arak can view programs on the first channel of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Channel 3. According to this report, the television relay station of Samangan has been increased in two stages to 50 watts.

Pakistan

THE MUSLIM Comments on Drop in U.S. Aid

BK0402121090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 Feb 90 p 4

[Editorial: "The Aid Squeeze"]

[Text] The Bush Administration has requested Congress to sanction 573 million dollars in foreign aid to Pakistan for 1991 as part of the six-year aid package of 4.02 billion dollars negotiated in 1987. This represents a drop in aid by 23.7 million dollars, as compared to the amount of 596.7 million dollars approved by the U.S. Congress for the current year. The drop, which should have been expected, notwithstanding the advent of democratic government in Pakistan, reflects altered U.S. priorities amid a changing political environment, especially in Eastern Europe. From Pakistan's point of view, it is also an indication of diminishing U.S. interest in the Afghan situation. The U.S. is obviously coming to the conclusion that its money is better spent elsewhere. Of course, where it finds its interests being well-served, there is no change in the level of aid. No cut has been proposed, for instance, in the 3 billion dollars of U.S. aid going to Israel, despite the occasional show of dissatisfaction affected by the U.S. over aspects of Tel Aviv's policy towards the Palestinians.

It is well within the realm of possibility that Congress further slashes funds proposed for Pakistan. In any case, as tension with India rises, U.S. aid may be even less reliable. In the past the United States has been wont to suspend aid to Pakistan, during times of Indo-Pak confrontation, ostensibly in an even-handed fashion, by imposing a cut on aid to India as well. The effect of such cuts, however, has always been disproportionately severe on Pakistan which by virtue of its "special relationship" with the U.S. is far more dependent on it as compared to India which retains access to a multiplicity of sources of external assistance as well as a more developed indigenous resource base. The situation renders even more

urgent the need for Pakistan to review the extent of its dependence on the U.S. and explore the possibility of putting its ties with the Soviet Union on an even keel. A balanced and stable relationship with the two superpowers is now possible for Pakistan in the wake of the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. This has to be viewed also in the context of the developing situation in Kashmir. Aid, however, from any source—including multilateral agencies—is not the answer to Pakistan's defence or development needs, not least because it is habit-forming and creates an ethos in which self-reliance is not at a premium and sovereignty is often in danger of being compromised. In the time to come, the terms for economic or military aid are also likely to be much more strict compared to the relatively easy ride Pakistan has been getting on this score owing to the special circumstances prevailing in the region so far.

State To Inform World Leaders of Stand on Kashmir

BK0802070590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] Pakistan will soon send its special emissaries to the world capitals to deliver the prime minister's letter to world leaders to apprise them of Pakistan's principled stand on the Kashmir issue. Quoting sources in Islamabad, the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN reported that this is part of an effort to consolidate world public opinion on Kashmir and put pressure on India to stop atrocities in occupied Kashmir.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has also sent letters to his counterparts all over the world clarifying Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir issue with reference to the UN resolutions and rejecting Indian propaganda that there is a foreign hand in the current struggle in occupied Kashmir. These sources also said that India has failed to assert that events in Kashmir were launched with foreign assistance. This has been proven in Western media reports that state that India has failed to provide proof of Pakistan's intervention in the Kashmir Valley.

Defense Minister Confident of Kashmiri Struggle

BK0802040490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 0300 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] The minister of state for defense, retired Colonel Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, has expressed confidence that struggle of the people in the occupied Kashmir will be successful. Addressing a seminar on national defense in Lahore, he said the government was exploring all avenues for a solution of the problem.

Iranian Envoy Discusses Bilateral Ties, Kashmir

Meets Sind Governor

LD0502114390 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Iran and Pakistan Monday underlined the need for the overall expansion of bilateral cooperation.

Iran's Ambassador to Pakistan Javad Mansuri today met in Karachi with Governor General of Pakistan's Sind Province Fakhruddin Ibrahim, who described the Islamic revolution of Iran as a turning point for the world Muslims.

The Islamic revolution, the Pakistani official said, proved to the world that through reliance on Islam and independence from the East and the West, a nation can stand hardships.

He also lauded Iran's independence and sovereignty in tackling numerous economic problems in the absence of any foreign assistance.

Meanwhile, Mansuri referred to Iran's support for the people of Kashmir as an Islamic duty and said that Iran's stance in this connection showed the attention it paid to the Islamic world, especially its neighbour countries.

Voices Support for Kashmiris

BK0602115290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Iran has reiterated its strong support to the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for the right of self-determination. The Iranian ambassador, Mr Javad Mansuri, told newsmen in Islamabad today that his country's support reflects strong sentiments of the Government and people of Iran for the Government and people of Pakistan and the Muslims in the occupied Kashmir.

Iran's Khoiniha on Defending World Muslim Rights

LD0602204590 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 6, IRNA—The rights of Muslims are being trampled everywhere around the world, and the Islamic ummah has become the target of aggression of the ringleaders of blasphemy and atheism, said the head of Iran's Centre for Strategic Studies said today.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Musavi Khoiniha speaking to a gathering of professors and students of the College of Islamic Law in Rawalpindi, called on lawyers and all other Muslims to use their legal and scientific knowledge for reclaiming the denied rights of the ummah.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran considers it a duty to defend the rights of every Muslim individual anywhere in the world," he said.

Hoj. Khoiniha heading a delegation arrived here Monday night.

Curfew Imposed in Malir Extension Area, Karachi

BK0802120490 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 8 Feb 90

[Text] In Karachi, an indefinite curfew has been imposed in the jurisdiction of police station Malir Extension since

1400 today following violence in the area. A woman was killed in violence this morning.

Sri Lanka

Government To Question Perumal About India Visit

BK0902114890 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Feb 90

[Text] The northeast chief minister, Varadaraja Perumal, will be taken to task for visiting India, violating the emigration and immigration laws of the country, Foreign Minister and State Minister for Defense Ranjan Wijeratne said yesterday.

Fielding questions at yesterday's cabinet press briefing, the minister said even cabinet ministers have to observe relevant laws and procedures when leaving and reentering the country. The chief minister is not above those legal imperatives, he said. He recalled that he had to cool his heels for one hour at the Madras airport during his recent visit to India to obtain custom clearance. Mr. Wijeratne said he was not aware that Perumal had returned from India. The chief minister should go through the proper procedure; even a cabinet minister has to be customed.

In reply to further queries about Chief Minister Perumal, the minister said if Mr. Perumal is a Sri Lankan, he should observe the laws of Sri Lanka, and if his allegiance is to India, he should take up residence in that country. If his intention is to divide the country, he should then leave the country.